Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-086
Thursday
6 May 1993

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FBIS-SOV-93-086 CONTENTS *6 May 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.S. Senators Visit Moscow To Discuss START II *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Meet With Shaposhnikov *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Central European Defense Chiefs' Meeting Concludes *[Vilnius Radio]* 1
Japan, CIS To Cooperate in Nuclear Weapons Elimination *[Moscow International]* 1

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Kebich Speech Details Agreements at CIS Heads Session *[Minsk Radio]* 2
New Plan for Ukraine's Nonnuclear Status Detailed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 2
Commentary Calls For Switch to Russia's 'Own Currency' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 May]* 3
'No Significant Changes' in Soviet SRF *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 May]* 3
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 6 May 5

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Officials Discuss Plans for Bosnian Peace 7
Kozyrev, UK's Hurd Hold Phone Call *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Yeltsin Welcomes Bosnia Signing Plan *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Churkin Flies to Belgrade for Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Yeltsin Releases Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Defense, Foreign Ministries Discuss Peacekeeping Operations 7
Joint Sitting Held 6 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Grachev Calls For Legislation *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Kozyrev on Bosnian Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Warren Christopher Ends Moscow 'Working Visit' *[Moscow Radio]* 8
IZVESTIYA on Yeltsin-Christopher Talks *[6 May]* 8
Military Leader Reviews Talks With U.S. Counterparts *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Shokhin Holds News Conference on London, U.S. Trip *[Radio Rossii]* 9
Abandonment of Submarine Deterrent Urged *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 May]* 10
Spokesman Says Yeltsin Postponing Visit to Japan *[Tokyo KYODO]* 11
Trip To Be 25-27 May *[Moscow Radio]* 12
Yeltsin To Attend G-7 Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Visit 'Practically Impossible' *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Canada's Mulroney Supports Yeltsin Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Arrives on Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Welcomed by Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Kozyrev Attends Welcoming Ceremony *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Joint Ocean Research Enterprise With Canada Agreed *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives in Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Meets With Kunadze *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Navy Slams Ukraine's 'Privatization' of Russian Ships *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 May]* 14
Latvian Visa Regime Disrupting 'Normal Communications' *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 14
Portugal's Barroso in Moscow; Soviet Debt Issue Resolved *[Lisbon TV]* 15
CIS States Urged To Adopt Nonproliferation Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
EC Permanent Mission Opens in Tyumen Oblast *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 May]* 16
Danish Minister Says Russian-EC Talks Continue Successfully *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Negotiations Between Russia, European Community Open *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Results of Trade Delegation's Visit to South America *[Moscow Radio]* 16
Kolokolov Sums Up Results of South Africa Trip *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Slow Democratization Hinders Consolidation of RSA Ties *[Moscow International]* 17

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Victory, May Day Activities

Preparations for 9 May Victory Day Viewed 18
Red Square Rallies Prohibited *[Moscow TV]* 18
Communist Party Denied Rally *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
'Attempts on Yeltsin's Life' Planned *[Moscow TV]* 18
Democrats Warn of Attack on Yeltsin *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 6 May]* 18
Groups Call For Renaming Holiday *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Possible Provocations Foreseen *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 6 May]* 19
Further Reportage on May Day Activities 19
Working Russia Picketing White House *[Radio Rossii]* 19
Anpilov Says 3 Killed *[Radio Rossii]* 19
Organizers, Participants Responsible *[Radio Rossii]* 20
Militia Did Not Intend Confrontation *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Yeltsin Sends Condolences *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Procurator General's Office Cited *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
No Comment From Investigating Team *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 21
Comment on Khasbulatov 4 May Speech *[IZVESTIYA 6 May]* 21

Political Issues

Further Reportage on Referendum Results 22
Central Electoral Commission Cited *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Factions Evaluate Results *[Moscow Radio]* 22
Post-Referendum Future Pondered *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 22
Voting Majority Rejects Communist Opposition *[Moscow Radio]* 25
Council of Ministers Presidium Meets 6 May 25
Discusses Bills on Rent, Companies *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Draft Sent to Supreme Soviet *[Moscow TV]* 25
MVD Approves Militia's Actions *[Moscow TV]* 26
Official Warns Against Constitutional Commission Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Yeltsin Aide Kostikov Cited on New Constitution *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 26
People's Labor Union Urges Adoption of New Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Further on Shumeyko's 5 May News Conference *[IZVESTIYA 6 May]* 28
Blames Deputies for Violence *[Russian TV]* 28
Shokhin on Possible Return of Gaydar to Cabinet *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Democrats Ask President To Form New Government
[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 5 May] 29
Yeltsin Edict on Government Working Bodies *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 May]* 29
Official Seeks Detention of Lukyanov, Kryuchkov *[Moscow Radio]* 30
ANCOM-TASS International Press Agency Set Up *[ITAR-TASS]* 30

Military & Economic Issues

Internationalist Servicemen Conference Held 5 May 30
Grachev, Gromov Address Conference *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 May]* 30
Conference Appeals to Armed Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Yeltsin Hails 'Reliable Protection' of Kremlin Regiment *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Western Advice Not Right for National Economy *[FEDERATSIYA 4 May]* 32
Finance Ministry's Plan To Sell Gold Criticized *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 5 May]* 34
Status of Spring Sowing Campaign Reviewed *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 35

Supreme Soviet

Investigating Commission Meets To Discuss May Day *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 35
Draft Statement Prepared *[Moscow Radio]* 36
Presidium Meets 5 May To Discuss May Day Events 36
Khasbulatov: Riots Result of Referendum *[Moscow TV]* 36
Moscow Mayor Luzhkov Address *[Russian TV]* 36

Khasbulatov Cited; More on Luzhkov *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
News Agencies Banned From Covering Meetings *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Further on Access Denial *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
News Agencies Threaten Boycott *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Parliamentary Officials Discuss Constitution, Power Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Reform Coalition Advocates Professional Parliament *[Moscow TV]* 40

Regional Affairs

Bomb Discovered at Tatarstan Deputy Premier's House *[Moscow TV]* 40
Security Ministry Protests Kalmyk President's Edict *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 5 May]* 40
Chechen Opposition Claims Desertions From Dudayev Camp *[Russian TV]* 41
'Bogus' Investment Firm Takes St. Petersburg Vouchers *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 41
Hundreds of Hectares of Farmland Affected in Tomsk *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Situation Still Tense in North Ossetia-Ingushetia Region *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Messages Mark Military District Anniversary *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 May]* 42
Program Examines Udmurtia Arms Industry *[Russian TV]* 43
Nizhniy Novgorod Voucher Auctions Continue *[Russian TV]* 45

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Council Votes To Abide by 1980 Nuclear Materials Convention *[Kiev International]* 46
Plyushch Confers With British Envoy on Nuclear Issues *[Kiev International]* 46
Rukh Chairman Opposes Missile Transfer to Russia *[Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG 3 May]* 46
Kravchuk Ready To Meet Yeltsin on Black Sea Fleet *[Moscow International]* 47
Security Service Denies Interfering in Russian Affairs *[UKRINFORM]* 47
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Working Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Treatment of Ethnic Ukrainians in Yugoslavia Protested *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Official Says FRY Sanctions Paralyzing Trade *[Kiev International]* 48
Interior Ministry Delegation Visits Israel *[Kiev International]* 48

National Affairs

Seventh Session of Supreme Council Continues *[Kiev International]* 48
Debate Focuses on Chernobyl Issue *[UKRINFORM]* 49

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Supreme Soviet To Review Completed Constitution Draft *[Minsk Radio]* 50
Government Rejects Russian Example of Privatization *[Minsk Radio]* 50
Polish Military Team Visits, Signs Cooperation Pact *[ROSSIYA 5 May]* 50

Moldova

Snegur Reports Progress in Solving Ethnic Conflicts *[Moscow International]* 50
Supreme Court To Annul Tiraspol Ruling as 'Unconstitutional' *[Bucharest Radio]* 51
Romania Training 'Terrorists' To Provoke Conflict *[BASAPRESS]* 51

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

President Meets Servicemen, Outlines Military Doctrine *[Almaty Radio]* 52
Nazarbayev Opposes Confederative State in Central Asia *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Trade Officials Hold Talks With Iranian Commerce Minister *[Tehran IRNA]* 52
Tereshchenko Ready To Broaden Cooperation *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Protesters Demand End to PRC Nuclear Tests *[Moscow TV]* 52

DPRK Embassy Holds Briefing on U.S. Ties *[Almaty Radio]* 53

CAUCASUS

Armenia

President's Spokesman Welcomes UN Resolution on Karabakh *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Karabakh Official's UN Letter Expresses 'Concern' *[SNARK]* 54
Azeris Said Massing Troops; Turks Transporting Arms *[Yerevan Radio]* 54

Azerbaijan

Leadership Considers Position on Three-Way Peace Document *[ASSA-IRADA]* 54
State Secretary Says Document Approved *[TURAN]* 55
U.S. Involvement Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 55
Ministry Links Armenian Pullout to Dispute Over War Spoils *[AZERTAC]* 56
Armenians Said To Transfer Military Units *[AZERTAC]* 56

Georgia

Shevardnadze, Russian Commander Discuss Artillery Arsenal *[SNARK]* 56
Defense Minister To Reject Parliament Call To Resign *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 56
Swiss Ambassador Named UN Envoy to Georgia *[Bern International]* 57
Chinese Enterprises Sign Cooperation Agreement *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 57
Parliament 4 May Session Detailed *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57

BALTIC STATES

Latvia

Gorbunovs Meets With European Parliament Delegation *[Riga Radio]* 58
Andrejevs Denounces 'Ethnic Cleansing' Charges *[BNS]* 58

Lithuania

Landsbergis Criticizes Polish Envoy's Remark on Vilnius *[BNS]* 58
Landsbergis Elected Leader of Homeland Union Party *[Moscow TV]* 59

U.S. Senators Visit Moscow To Discuss START II

LD0505125393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1249 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 5—The START-2 treaty has paramount meaning for Russo-American relations, according to Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. At a meeting today with members of the Russian parliament, Nunn said that this agreement will not upset the weapons balance of the two largest nuclear powers. The American senator added that the American people do not want a new arms race, like the Russian people.

Members of the Russian parliament informed the American senators that the START-2 ratification process in the Supreme Soviet is not simple and the treaty is causing many disputes. The deputies added that long and difficult work is still ahead to ratify the treaty.

Meet With Shaposhnikov

LD0505183793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1821 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—A meeting of CIS Allied Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and U.S. Senators Sam Nunn, Claiborne Pell and Richard Lugar and members of U.S. Senate commissions, currently in Moscow to attend consultations on the START-2 treaty ratification, was held here today to discuss topical aspects of consolidation of the strategic stability with a considerable reduction and elimination of nuclear arsenals.

The sides discussed the priority use of political means for the prevention and termination of armed conflicts and coordinated elaboration of well-balanced approaches to the upkeep of international peace, the CIS Allied Armed Forces Supreme Command's public information center reports.

They noted the START-2 ratification should be viewed in this very context.

At the same time, Marshal Shaposhnikov raised a number of questions, which provoke grave concern. These include specification of the START-2 provisions, which guarantee equal safety of the sides at all stages of the treaty implementation, and inadmissibility of attempts to turn NATO into a sort of U.N. "peacemaking lever".

Other issues of international safety were discussed as well.

Central European Defense Chiefs' Meeting Concludes

LD0405164993 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] A meeting of Central European defense ministers in Riga has concluded with a press conference.

Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis noted although it did not adopt any official documents, this was an important meeting because mutual understanding between the states that are forming their armed forces became apparent. A dialogue started among them. Security in one country is linked with security in the whole region, the minister stressed.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov noted that the foundations were laid at this meeting not only for mutual understanding but also for security guarantees.

The most important issues discussed at the meeting were the concept of the development of armed forces, problems of the Russian Army, and the part played by the Central European armed forces in the processes of maintaining peace.

Representatives of the Latvian Ministry of Defense also had separate meetings with the Moldovan and Ukrainian defense ministers, in order to become better acquainted with the development of armed forces in those countries.

Plans for cooperation were examined with the Lithuanian and Estonian defense ministers. Joint exercises of the defense forces of the three Baltic states will be held at the end of May in Latvia.

Jundzis expressed his belief that the hopes for material and political cooperation among the Central European defense ministries will be fulfilled.

Japan, CIS To Cooperate in Nuclear Weapons Elimination

LD0505090793 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Japan's Foreign Ministry has decided to set up, together with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a committee to implement Japan's program of helping Russia and some other former Soviet republics to eliminate nuclear weapons. This has been announced by the newspaper (SANKAI NIPPON).

Among other things, Japan intends to help build special storages for plutonium which is released after the nuclear warheads are dismantled, and also underground cemeteries to bury nuclear waste. The new committee intends to have its headquarters in Moscow.

Kebich Speech Details Agreements at CIS Heads Session

WS0505100993 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0505 GMT 5 May 93

["Excerpts" of closing speech by Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich at the 28 April summit of CIS heads of state in Minsk—recorded; Kebich speaks in Russian; translated from the Russian]

[Text] You know that the current session was held at the initiative of the heads of states who decided to adopt a program of strengthening the CIS. You remember that the main guidelines of this program were outlined by Russian President Boris Yeltsin when he addressed the CIS heads. Today, we have discussed a package of documents providing for closer CIS economic integration. The agenda included 14 major topics, some of them representing an entire group of important issues on the development of CIS multilateral cooperation. I would like to speak about one issue. Its title is: On Further Strengthening the CIS. It includes a broad program for drafting documents on the strengthening of the CIS organization, including the creation of continuously operating executive branches that are indispensable for the normal functioning of the CIS. We have initialed the regulations on the CIS Coordinative and Consultative Committee, on the Executive Secretariat which will organize the CIS work. We have discussed a package of economic proposals which elaborate on documents on such vitally important issues as cooperation in the financial, money and credit, hard currency, prices and taxes, [words indistinct], and investment spheres; coordination of foreign economic policy and elimination of competition in the markets of Third countries, and other vital issues.

A package of humanitarian issues contains an extensive program on the elaboration of draft documents. I mean the Declaration on International Obligations in the Sphere of Human Rights and Main Freedoms; aid to refugees and forced immigrants; protection of victims of military conflicts; joint activities in the environment protection activities, combating terrorism, and illegal smuggling of drugs.

We are going to adopt many important decisions in the sphere of strengthening the CIS defense capacity and deepening military cooperation. A package of such proposals will be discussed by us at our future session. I want to underline that we have worked fruitfully and productively, and have managed to discuss a number of issues which will be brought in the next session of the CIS heads of states. These issues were perfectly prepared by experts, and did not cause serious disputes. Among them, I would highlight the following report entitled: On Interstate Mutual Relations in Agro- Industrial Sphere. A detailed talk on this issue was held in Smolensk, and unanimous concord was reached. Today, we have just confirmed our mutual understanding and coincidence of views. After long discussions, a final decision was adopted on the creation of the Interstate Television Company. We have also agreed on the principles of participation of CIS members in the construction of the giant automobile plant in Elabuga; have discussed the situation in the Tajikistan and Afghanistan border area; the issues of imprisoned servicemen in Afghanistan; the increasing responsibility of the CIS executive authoritative organs; the fulfillment of military obligations, and other issues. We have also named the date of the future session of CIS heads of government—26 May 1993. The venue has not yet been selected.

New Plan for Ukraine's Nonnuclear Status Detailed

MK0605094093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 93 p 1

[Vladimir Skachko report under the rubric "Disarmament": "Wait Till Talbott Comes... Nonnuclear Ukraine: New Trends"]

[Excerpts] Strobe Talbott, U.S. State Department ambassador at large and adviser on relations with the newly independent states, arrives in Kiev on 14 May. In Ukraine, they link his visit to a possible change in the U.S. stance regarding the nuclear weapons deployed in the republic and also regarding Ukraine itself. In the opinion of Ukrainian politicians, while earlier the United States demanded that Ukraine unconditionally carry out its pledges on the ratification of the START I treaty, the Lisbon Protocol, and the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, while providing for this purpose only $175 million without security guarantees, now, after the obstinacy and firmness of the Ukrainian position has become apparent, the Unites States is ready to come to an agreement and proposes more acceptable options, compensation, and guarantees of security. [passage omitted]

HOLOS UKRAYINY quoted U.S. President Bill Clinton as saying that in line with the START I treaty, the United States will "do everything to speed up the dismantling by Russia and the three other states of the nuclear weapons on their territory." On the basis of this statement, the newspaper concludes that without renouncing nuclear disarmament, the United States will renounce the tactics of pressure on Ukraine and sit down together with it at the negotiating table. Attention is being drawn to the fact that Strobe Talbott is making his first stopover in the CIS precisely in Kiev.

At the same time, Pavel Zhovnirenko, member of the Parliamentary Commission on International Affairs, an advocate of nonnuclear status for Ukraine, proposed a compromise solution to the problem of Ukrainian security. In his opinion, Ukraine can come forward with an initiative for signing a multilateral agreement between Ukraine, on the one hand, and the United States and Russia, and, possibly, with Britain and France, on the other. This agreement, according to Zhovnirenko, would resemble the agreement on the restoration of an independent democratic Austria that was signed in 1955 between Britain, France, the United States, and the

USSR, on one hand, and Austria on the other. Under this agreement, the nuclear states pledged to respect the independence, territorial integrity, and inviolability of Austria's borders; they guaranteed the impermissibility of it's being annexed to the FRG, while Austria pledged to follow democratic principles and observe neutrality. Pavel Zhovnirenko proposed to add to that one more thing—nonnuclear status for Ukraine. In his opinion, this would make it possible for Ukraine not to fear an attack from Russia; the West would then try to secure destruction of part of the ex-USSR's nuclear potential, while Russia would remain the sole nuclear power in East Europe. Pavel Zhovnirenko showed to your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent a reply to his proposal from Zbigniew Brzezinski. The American political scientist replied that he was staggered by the idea, and that it merited further elaboration.

Commentary Calls For Switch to Russia's 'Own Currency'

PM0605081193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 May 93 p 7

[Vladimir Berezovskiy "Commentary": "Friendship Is One Thing, Currency Is Something Else"]

[Text] Tashkent—Kyrgyz Premier T. Chyngyshev said the other day that his government is preparing to introduce a national currency—the som. According to unofficial data, the new bank notes, printed in Britain, have already arrived in the republic on a special flight.

What made Bishkek take this step? A lack of cash due to virtually empty stores. IMF experts are demanding similar measures from the former Soviet republics. Even they, having revised their original stance, have realized that Russia is no longer able to play the part of donor—it is trying to survive itself.

I would remind you that Russia has taken it upon itself to pay the former Soviet republics' debts. In so doing it has given them access to foreign loans, and the new states have taken advantage of this. Foreign capital investments in, for example, Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan, are no smaller than investments in Russia, which is all but begging for Western credits. But that is a minor thing.

Russia's economic relations with partners in the new foreign parts are still reminiscent of the adventures of the carousing merchant whom everyone wants to take advantage of. Estonia, as is known, is now the world's sixth largest exporter of copper, bronze, lead, and nickel, although it does not have enough deposits to make even a tea strainer. Latvia and Lithuania are shipping abroad trainloads of Urals cast iron, Krasnoyarsk timber, and Kuzbass coal. The southern neighbors are not dragging their feet either. Kyrgyzstan alone has reexported to China goods from Russia worth nearly 20 billion rubles [R]. Rivers of gasoline and fuel oil are flowing into Afghanistan.

According to Doctor of Sciences Anatoliy Deryabin from the Economics Institute, if Russia had sold its own energy resources and raw materials last year, without the middlemen, it would have earned $100 billion. In fact, income from exports was only one-third of that. Where is the rest?

While desperately short of hard currency, Moscow has again been buying grain abroad and letting it go to Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. But for rubles.

As for the ruble zone, it was demolished by the unbridled issuing of money by national banks. The republics have printed nearly R1 trillion. Moreover, rubles have poured into Russia from Ukraine, the Baltic republics, and Azerbaijan.

All the former Soviet republics instantly asked world prices for their products. All except Russia. It is still selling oil, timber, metal, and machinery at a considerable discount. What is this, if not a hidden subsidy?

The government does not skimp on obvious financial injections either. They are diplomatically called technical credits nowadays. The figure runs into hundreds and hundreds of billions of rubles. The interesting thing is that what are in effect loans are given without undue publicity. There is no comparison with the West, which accompanies every single credit or aircraft carrying humanitarian aid with a propaganda ballyhoo, and often with political demands. With us it is all shrouded in darkness: When and on what terms will Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and the other republics repay their debts to Russia? Or will they be quietly written off?

There appears to be only one solution—Russia must accelerate the switch to its own currency.

This does not mean that we have to turn our backs on our nearest neighbors, which whom we have lived for centuries. But friendship is one thing; currency is something else.

'No Significant Changes' in Soviet SRF

PM0505121393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 May 93 p 7

[Sergey Ovsiyenko article: "Where Missiles Are Pointed"]

[Text] A new category of troops—the Strategic Rocket Forces [SRF]—was formed amid tremendous secrecy in the USSR late in 1959. From then on our press regularly carried TASS reports about areas of the Pacific Ocean closed to aircraft and shipping, immediately followed by another piece of information: The targets assigned during the launching of ICBM's were reached...

The world was able to judge the potential capabilities of the new category of the USSR Armed Forces after a Soviet citizen was launched into space. Yuriy Gagarin was put into space by the first three-stage ICBM, the R-7, known to the world as the "Vostok" rocket.

The SRF were the means that enabled the USSR to ascend to the rank of a superpower. Serving in the SRF was a source of prestige and profit—the whole country showed concern for the troops, and with rare exceptions all sectors of industry worked to meet their requirements. But all this was done under a cloak of state secrecy that could only be guessed at.

We had something to hide—the SRF gave a mighty fillip to the development of many hitherto unknown technologies and industrial and scientific sectors. In addition, the SRF was also a lever in international policy, which the USSR's leaders sometimes made with shoe in hand...

I saw a stand in the SRF museum devoted to the "Anadyr" plan. Under it there were plans in the early sixties to deploy to Cuba a division of 12,500 men and 80 R-14 single-stage intermediate-range strategic missiles. This plan was destined to be only half-implemented: It proved possible to site three regiments and 37 live missiles on the island.

The SRF now occupy a special place in a policy whose interests have, admittedly, partially shifted away from the international arena to the CIS. But more about that later.

The veil of secrecy hiding the USSR Armed Forces' holy of holies from the world has played a cruel joke on the SRF 30 years later. According to Lieutenant General Ilya Panin, head of the SRF Cadre Training and Placement Directorate, the current intake to colleges does not satisfy the High Command.

There are several reasons for this: Here too there has been a general decline in interest in military service along with the considerable cuts in the Russian Army envisaged by military reform... If you take into consideration the strategic forces' specific problems, this turning point with cadres was brought about by the signing of the START II Treaty, whereby each of our ICBM's is left with one nuclear warhead instead of 10. The SRF command now has to explain an obvious point: A missile requires the same amount of maintenance work as before.

The quest for a solution to the cadre problem, particularly among junior officers, forced the command of the SRF to take a different view of the principle of manpower acquisition. They came to rest on the opinion that being an officer is not a lifelong profession. After graduating from college, an officer may be discharged after five years of service. He would not upbraid the command over this, saying that it was backing down. I consider this a sober view of things: Love cannot be forced. We would remind you that a similar (three-year) approach has long been taken in "civvy street" to a young specialist. And that's OK.

The High Command now takes a different view of the troops' excessive secrecy. The necessary secrecy must be preserved, while unnecessary secrecy must be done away with—otherwise in the current conditions the cadre famine will be a major concern within the troops.

The SRF have their own network of educational establishments. The unique—in terms of the quality of its instruction—Dzerzhinskiy Military Academy was founded in 1820 by Grand Prince Mikhail. At one time, I was told by the academy's head, Colonel General Yuriy Plotnikov, it gave rise to five other military academies and six civilian higher educational establishments and faculties.

Any department has its technological field, its scientific school... Some 64 doctors of science and 530 candidates of science teach in the academy's seven faculties. Here is another detail that speaks for itself: The academy discovered the secret of Damascus steel...

The consequences of the breakup of the former USSR's Armed Forces affected the rocket forces least of all. The troops' main strategic potential was located on Russian territory. This was how the rest was broken down: Some 130 SS-19 (RS-18's) and 46 SS-24 (RS-22's) missiles were transferred to Ukraine, 104 SS-18's (RS-20's) to Kazakhstan, and 54 SS-25's (RS-12M's) to Belarus.

The emergence of another three countries with nuclear weapons caused concern in the world. For instance, Ukraine has "taken possession" of nuclear weapons superior to the potential of China, Britain, and France put together. A great deal of the tension was relieved by the Lisbon protocol (May 1992) whereby Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine pledged to eliminate strategic offensive arms over the next seven years. Immediately after Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan ratified the START I treaty. Ukraine's position, however, has begun to waver noticeably. Some political circles in the republic have begun to favor nuclear power status with increasing certainty.

According to Lieutenant General Vladimir Nikitin, deputy commander in chief of the SRF High Command, rocket forces groupings have transferred to the administrative control of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, while the High Command retains operational control. As for the "black-box" attache case, the Ukrainian president has the right to refuse the "go-ahead" for an ICBM launch. That is the compromise which has led to a dramatic situation in the republic. The crux of this being that the rocket forces groupings transferring to Ukrainian jurisdiction are having tremendous difficulties in maintaining the launch silos. Gen. Nikitin described an incident that horrified eyewitnesses. Following rainfall water leaked into a silo and flooded a missile. Had there not been a short circuit in the missile systems, Ukraine would not have escaped a second Chernobyl. Thank God, the danger passed...

From its meager stocks the Russian SRF High Command has allocated materials needed to keep missiles and launch silos in a more or less normal state. But this cannot go on for long.

Evidently people in Kiev have finally realized this too. Leonid Kravchuk recently acknowledged that Ukraine does not have the requisite potential to maintain the rocket forces.

Meetings at the Russian SRF High Command have helped to clarify the stance espoused by the military themselves with regard to the START II Treaty.

"The Supreme Soviet hearings on this treaty revealed inter alia the following idea: START II constitutes unilateral disarmament for Russia," Lieutenant General Viktor Yesin, deputy head of the SRF Main Staff, said. "That idea would be valid if it were a question of the Soviet Union. But Russia cannot endure the burden of spending on the upkeep of the strategic arms, and without the treaty the heavy missiles whose service life has expired would have to be decommissioned. In that case the United States would obtain a greater advantage and would have far more than the 3,000-3,500 warheads envisaged by the treaty.

"When considering the pluses and minuses of START II we must bear in mind the fact that capacities for producing heavy missiles have been left outside Russia (in Ukraine). Keeping the RS-20's and RS-22's in the arsenal would present us with a choice: Either we buy them from Ukraine, or we set up the appropriate production units on our own territory. Both options are unrealistic for political reasons and because of economic considerations."

I could not help but ask the following delicate question: Who is our likely adversary now? It was tactfully hinted to me that the answer should be sought from the apparatus of the supreme commander in chief. We are soldiers; we do what we are told. There have been no significant changes within the rocket forces, and the targeting area [sektor natselivaniya] is still all around us—180 degrees to the left and 180 degrees to the right.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 6 May

LD0605070693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0516 GMT 6 May 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—By ITAR-TASS:

The April 25 referendum results, announced by the central electoral commission, remain one of the highlights of Russia's newspapers. The nationwide poll has shown that "the voters came out for stability and cooperation between the branches of power", says the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" daily, proceeding from a "situational analysis" on the topic "referendum: underlying reasons for the vote outcome and possible political consequences" carried out by the Gorbachev foundation. The foundation analysts believe that the referendum brought about "a definitive polarization of power structures", the newspaper goes on to say. They found themselves in a stalemate, "when both the president and the parliament appeared provided with their own legitimate substantiation". "The new situation allows for a true negotiating process between the two branches of authority as sides which have to treat each other with respect and should not try any longer to push out each other from the political scene".

The trade union daily "TRUD" lays emphasis on different interpretations of the referendum results. "The people says 'yes' and the lawmakers hear 'no'", Nikolay Kishkin comments on the vote outcome. He admits that people have said "yes" to reforms, but he warns the reformers against indulging in self-delusion. Apparent errors in this field should be rectified and the reforms themselves should become socially oriented—these are the main conclusions to be drawn by the executive branch of power from this "yes", says Kishkin. "But lawmakers also should understand that the sweeping running down of the policy of reforms will not work any longer, that it is high time they joined in positive work to advance these reforms or to admit openly that the people is no authority for them".

The conservative "PRAVDA" claims that "the referendum results in the Moscow region have been called in question". It carries a statement by a group of people's deputies who applied to the referendum central electoral commission with a request "to declare the referendum results around Moscow and the Moscow region invalid following the ballot rigging and violations of law in the course of the people's vote and the counting of its results".

The "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA" daily goes back to the May Day "bloody events" in Moscow which ended in a clash between the demonstrators and law-enforcement forces. The newspaper carries the full text of the may 4 televised speech by Russian parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov. It emphasises the speaker's words that "the people who committed these crimes should not escape punishment by hiding themselves behind a screen of political confrontation".

The youth daily "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA" quotes Gennadiy Benov, head of the deputies' commission investigating reasons for and circumstances of using force against the participants in the May Day demonstration, as saying that "the events on the Gagarin Square aimed to prepare a legal basis for imposing presidential rule".

Some newspapers carry articles devoted to the upcoming victoy day. Thus, the army daily "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" gives floor to Oleg Rzheshevskiy, vice-president of the international committee for the history of World War Two, who believes that this history should be written without using stereotypes and juggling with facts. He says it is high time to show the actual role played by the Soviet people and the Red Army in World War Two and their fundamental contribution into the victory over the Nazi Germany.

"PRAVDA" carries an article by army general, Professor M. Gareyev under the headline "Flag Above the

Reichstag", which resolutely denounces present-day falsifiers of the history of the Soviet people's struggle during World War Two, as well as any attempts at revising the results of the war. "A victory needs no inspectors", the scholar stresses.

"NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" tells its readers about preparations for the victory day celebration at Poklonnaya Gora in Moscow where a war memorial is now under construction to commemorate the victory of the soviet people in the great patriotic war.

Officials Discuss Plans for Bosnian Peace

Kozyrev, UK's Hurd Hold Phone Call

LD0505140993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his British counterpart Douglas Hurd expressed the hope for the soonest peaceful settlement in Bosnia during Tuesday's [4 May] telephone conversation.

The ministers noted the importance of the Athens agreements and the agreement of Bosnian sides with the Vance-Owen plan, and stressed the Russian and British readiness to contribute to the plan fulfilment.

The officials also discussed cooperation between Russia and the Council of Europe. Douglas Hurd, currently the head of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, confirmed the council's interest in expanded contacts with Russia.

Yeltsin Welcomes Bosnia Signing Plan

LD0505153793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1520 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Moscow, May 5 (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin welcomes the signing of the Vance-Owen plan by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, which testifies to the plan final recognition as the only wise alternative to the war between the conflicting sides, says a report of the Russian President Press Service.

"I hope the Bosnian Serbs' Assembly will also show responsibility and approve this decision," says a presidential statement made here today. Russia will render firm support to all those honestly following the peace way on the basis of the Vance-Owen plan, but will not indulge anyone in trying to escape the plan fulfilment.

"In this light we will actively support the U.N. peacemaking operation to implement the Vance-Owen plan, a decision on which will be taken by the U.N. Security Council," stressed Yeltsin.

Churkin Flies to Belgrade for Talks

LD0605100893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0946 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—As the Parliament of Bosnian Serbs failed to adopt a positive decision on the Vance-Owen plan for the settlement in Bosnia and submitted this question to a referendum on May 15-16, the Russian president's special envoy Vitaliy Churkin is flying to Belgrade today for talks with the leaders of the Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia and Bosnian Serbs on the obtaining situation.

Yeltsin Releases Statement

LD0605133893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1334 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Moscow May 6 ITAR-TASS—"The situation in Bosnia has reached a critical line," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in a statement released by his press office today.

The statement said in particular that "the way out of the tragedy is opened by the signing of the Vance-Owen peace plan by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadjic, which caps the recognition of this peace plan as the only sensible alternative by all conflicting sides".

The statement also said that "in contrast to the Assembly of Bosnian Serbs, they will show responsibility and approve this decision at a referendum".

"Russia will extend firm support to all those who will honestly follow the path of peace on the basis of the Vance-Owen plan, but will not back anyone who would seek to avoid it", the Russian president said in his statement.

Defense, Foreign Ministries Discuss Peacekeeping Operations

Joint Sitting Held 6 May

LD0605083493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0200 GMT 6 May 93

["ANNOUNCEMENT: Issues of participation by Russian troops in peace-keeping actions in the former union republics and abroad will be discussed at a joint sitting of the collegia of the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation"—ITAR-TASS headline; by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May—The participation of Russian troops in peace-keeping operations in the former Union republics and abroad will be the subject of discussion at a joint sitting of the collegia of the Russian Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is to be held today at the Russian military department.

The heads of the two ministries will discuss the effect of these actions on the interests of Russia's national security and its position in the world community. It is proposed that Pavel Grachev and Andrey Kozyrev should make speeches at the sitting of the collegia.

Grachev Calls For Legislation

LD0605101193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0951 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Naryshkin and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—"Russian military units, included in collective peace-keeping forces, are badly in need of a legislation, laying down their rights, duties and rules of recruitment," Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev said today, opening the first ever joint meeting of the collegiums of the Russian Defence Ministry and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The first item on its agenda pertained to the participation of Russian troops in U.N., CSCE, CIS and North Atlantic Cooperation Council peace-keeping actions.

Grachev said that Foreign Ministry, Defence Ministry and external intelligence experts had jointly drawn up basic principles for the build-up and use of Russian peace-keeping forces. They were approved by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"They envisage the elaboration of bills on the participation of servicemen and civilians in peace-keeping actions, which will be submitted for approval to the Supreme Soviet," Grachev stated, "the formation of peace-keeping units, the elaboration of statutes for them with due account of the international practice. Moreover, jointly with other CSCE nations, Russia should approve these documents and create mechanisms to influence the planning and implementation of peace-making actions. All the operations of Russian contingents, included in collective peace-keeping forces, must be strictly in keeping with the interests of Russia's national security," the minister stressed.

Kozyrev on Bosnian Referendum

LD0605102293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1008 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey naryshkin and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev addressed on Thursday a joint meeting of the collegiums of the Russian Defence Ministry and Foreign Ministry, the first one in the history of the two agencies. The main theme of the joint meeting was the discussion of the participation of Russian armed units in peace-keeping operations carried out in the framework of the CIS, CSCE and the United Nations Security Council.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev summed up the present situation in Bosnia where the referendum on Vance-Owen plan for the settlement of the conflict will be held on May 15-16. Kozyrev believes people will show common sense. The plan will be endorsed and it will be necessary to ensure the implementation of its provisions. Because of some circumstances, Russia is to play a special role in this, the minister said. The United States and European countries will participate in the operation. A number of neutral states expressed the readiness to join in. Structures of NATO, of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council may possibly be involved. But the entire work for preparing the operation should not be relegated to NATO headquarters. Russia should participate in this work in the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in the framework of the United Nations, and possibly also in Moscow so that Russia should make real contribution to this work from the very beginning, Kozyrev said.

Peace-keeping forces operating in the framework of the CIS, CSCE, under the auspices of the United Nations Security Council should perform functions to maintain and establish peace in regions. The specific feature of peace-keeping operations is not only in disuniting conflicting sides but also in stabilising the situation in some or other district.

Congratulating participants in the meeting on the forthcoming Victory Day Kozyrev said that relations of partnership, in perspective allied relations, are being formed with those countries together with which Russia fought against brown plague [Nazi Germany]. The minister believes that there is now a threat of aggression, manifestations of aggressive nationalism in a number of bloody regional conflicts.

Russian servicemen's participation in peace-keeping actions receives broad recognition. It is only unscrupulous speculators who try to slur truly peaceful functions of the Russian Armed Forces, the minister said. He noted that the experience of such operations shows that peace-keeping forces should not be unarmed as in the past. They should not be at the mercy of bandits. They must be able to rebuff them. This is confirmed by peace-keeping operations on the territory of the CIS and under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council.

Warren Christopher Ends Moscow 'Working Visit'

LD0505160793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] A working visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Russia has come to an end. He was received by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and held talks with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Russia and the United States expressed readiness to send their relevant military units to Bosnia to provide assistance in peace- making efforts under the UN auspices.

Warren Christopher left Moscow today.

IZVESTIYA on Yeltsin-Christopher Talks

PM0505132793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 93 First Edition p 1

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Yeltsin and Christopher Discuss Problems of Former Yugoslavia"]

[Text] A meeting between Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and U.S. Secretary of State W. Christopher held 5 May in the Kremlin took place literally a few hours before the session of the Bosnian Serb parliament which is to discuss the issue of the Vance-Owen plan.

The hour-long meeting was held behind closed doors, but Presidential Press Secretary V. Kostikov stated upon its conclusion that a definite breakthrough has been achieved over recent days in the course of multilateral consultations on the problem of the former Yugoslavia. The U.S. side believes that this became possible thanks to B. Yeltsin's recent statement on this problem. The president showed great flexibility and great firmness.

In the words of the secretary of state, the meeting noted that real prequisites exist for the adoption of the Vance-Owen plan by the Bosnian Serb parliament. If this happens, the prepared mechanism for the implementation of the plan will be launched. Here, the U.S. secretary of state stated, the United States would want to have close cooperation with Russia in implementing this plan. The scenario for actions in the event that the Bosnian parliament rejects the Vance-Owen plan was not discussed at the meeting. As a result of the talks B. Yeltsin expressed cautious optimism and made remarks in the spirit that, faced with possible dangerous developments, the Bosnian Serb parliament will adopt a wise, responsible decision.

In discussing Russian-U.S. bilateral relations B. Yeltsin expressed his commitment to maintaining a permanent consultation process on all key problems. Informing the U.S. secretary of state of the situation in Russia following the referendum, the president noted that the neocommunist bloc is in its death throes and is striving to impose confrontation on society. We will not allow any provocations 9 May, B. Yeltsin stressed.

Military Leader Reviews Talks With U.S. Counterparts

LD0605062993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0230 GMT 6 May 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington, 6 May—"Our visit to the American capital has blended organically into the successful development of Russian-American partnership relations, the fundamental foundation for which was laid in the Camp David declaration, the Washington declaration of 1992, and the Vancouver declaration on the results of the summit between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton." This is the assessment of the first staff talks between high-ranking military representatives of the two countries given by Lieutenant General Andrey Nikolayev, first deputy chief of the General Staff of Russia's Ministry of Defense, in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

These talks, which were marked by a spirit of goodwill and a sincere striving to expand contacts between the United States and the Russian Federation in the military sphere, took place on 3-5 May at the building of the U.S. Department of Defense. Representatives of the leadership of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. armed forces and of the Russian general staff appraised particularly highly that part of the recent Vancouver declaration in which the presidents of the two coutries pointed out the need for developing mutually beneficial ties at the level of ministries of defense of the two states.

"This was the first visit to the United States by a delegation from Russia's General Staff," said General A. Nikolayev. "Both the sides took an exceptionally serious attitude toward these discussions. This was a good, businesslike conversation aimed at consolidating cooperation between the military in the United States and Russia. The talks were in no way directed against the interests of third countries. The main issue that we discussed is that of ensuring the national security of Russia and the United States, making headway in the sphere of Russian-American partnership relations, which are developing in a positive spirit, and in the sphere of military ties within the framework of the directives given to the ministries of defense of our countries by Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton in Vancouver. This was not a one-time visit: our contacts are to be systematic, and the culmination of them is the June meeting of Les Aspin, U.S. Secretary of Defense, with Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's minister of defense. It was a great honor for us to have a meeting with L. Aspin and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, here."

"We highly assess the professional and theoretical level of our Russian collocutors. This has allowed us to examine the cooperation issues within the staff frameworks," Lieutenant General Edwin Leland, director for strategic plans and policy of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated to the ITAR-TASS correspondent. "It was a great pleasure for us to receive the first delegation from the Russian General Staff, and I think that its visit was of an exclusively constructive nature. We resolved a number of serious problems concerning our bilateral relations and the military and political situation in the world and, in particular, our meeting was productive from this point of view. Undoubtedly, our contacts have helped to raise cooperation between the high-ranking representatives of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and the General Staff of Russia to a new level."

Shokhin Holds News Conference on London, U.S. Trip

LD0505214293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Aleksandr Shokhin, vice prime minister of the Russian Government, held a news conference in Moscow today. It was devoted to the results of his visit to London and Washington. Our correspondent, Regina Lukashina, reports:

[Lukashina] The main topic of the talks that were held in London and Washington between Aleksandr Shokhin, vice prime minister of the Russian Government, representatives of international financial organizations, and the governments of Great Britain and the United States, was the repayment of past debts and the attraction of new funds for the Russian economy.

I would like to recall that Russia concluded an agreement quite recently with the Paris Club—which represents the interests of the creditor-states—on postponing the repayment of the former USSR's debts. Similar talks are now being held with the London Club, which represents commercial banks that provided us with funds some time ago.

The postponement regarding the repayment of past debts is the most noticeable element in the western countries' aid package to Russia. The position of the Russian Government is as follows, regarding attracting new credits:

[Begin Shokhin recording] The Russian Government does not intend to attract these funds if we are not certain of their effective use. Look and see. It turns out that about $15 billion of the $43.5 billion is in question. We do not insist that the fund for stabilizing the ruble should be used in full, at any cost, because it will be squandered in vain in the present situation. No- one knows to what consequences this would lead. If we are not sure that we will be using these funds effectively, then we will enter such a spiral of foreign indebtedness that no Paris Club would be able to help. [end recording]

[Lukashina] Shokhin noted on more than one occasion that the best thing the West can do for Russia is to lift restrictions on the export of goods of the Russian military-industrial complex, which have remained since the time of the Cold War. Talks on this account were also held in Washington, but Shokhin could not report any specific results.

Abandonment of Submarine Deterrent Urged

PM0405143593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 May 93 p 3

[Article by Rear Admiral, retired, Radiy Zubkov under the rubric "The Reader Continues the Discussion": "Why Not Go Further?"]

[Text] It seems to me that in the article "Treaty on Antisubmarine Defense Needed" (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 March 1993), Captain First Rank A. Demchenko raised a serious question connected not only with the ratification and implementation of the START II Treaty but also with the further strengthening of confidence and the development of cooperation and friendly relations between Russia and the United States.

The most important instrument for ensuring confidence during the reduction of strategic offensive weapons is the unconditional observance of the 1972 ABM Treaty. At the same time this treaty, as is well known, is limited in character. If one takes a broad view of the ABM problem it should embrace not only measures to combat nuclear warheads already in flight but also the destruction of ICBM's themselves and their launchers, the withdrawal from service of control systems, and so forth. In this connection the sides, in my opinion, should long ago have reached agreement on the joint limitation of the possibility of delivering counterforce strikes, banning the development of and eliminating existing third-generation nuclear weapons, and possibly limiting ASW activity with regard to strategic missile-armed craft or banning them entirely in agreed zones.

All these things should have happened but so far have not. The fact that these questions remain unsettled causes natural concern to the Russian side and is an obstacle to the strengthening of Russian-U.S. confidence, which A. Demchenko's article indeed reflects. In fact the Americans, on their Trident-system SSBN's [strategic nuclear missile submarines], retain practically intact (at least according to their assessments) the potential not only for a retaliatory strike but also a counterforce strike against Russia's land-based strategic offensive weapons. Whereas Russia's patroling strategic submarines, which are exclusively a means of delivering a retaliatory strike (the Americans themselves acknowledge this) and, furthermore, are the main means of doing so, are constantly in the sights of the U.S. ASW forces and systems—at least, even if not all of them are, 30-40 percent are in that situation. The remainder, at their bases, are in range of the grouping of counterforce strike systems.

I do not deny that such arguments are determined specifically by the confrontational syndrome of Cold War times, a syndrome which has not entirely been overcome. But it surely cannot be denied that grounds for such fears still exist.

To clarify matters fully, let me add here that I am an active supporter of the ratification of the START II Treaty (after the resolution of the problems with other CIS countries with nuclear weapons on their territory, of course). Thus all the arguments and suggestions which follow should not be regarded as additional conditions for the ratification of this treaty although, in my opinion, even their partial implementation would increase its effectiveness, determine further steps in the reduction of strategic offensive arms, and ultimately enhance strategic stability and international security.

What is to be done, therefore? Capt First Rank A. Demchenko proposes beginning "the negotiation process... perhaps... even the conclusion of a separate treaty (by analogy with the 1972 ABM Treaty) to restrict the potential of national ASW systems." It is not hard to foresee the Americans' counterarguments. For external consumption they will say: We cannot accept the attempts to restrict the principle of the freedom of the open seas for ASW forces (although when this is in its interests the United States does not hesitate to impose such restrictions by establishing no-go zones covering almost half the Atlantic, an area of 5 miles around its ships, and so forth). But for internal consumption they will say that these restrictions will be advantageous only to the Russians, ignoring the fact that the Americans themselves also gain both economically and strategically from the strengthening of confidence and stability in relations between the two countries—this is a gain for the Americans directly and for the whole world, which will become safer.

It must also be borne in mind that the ASW forces of the United States and its NATO allies (submarines, land-based patrol aircraft, stationary hydroacoustic systems, and hydroacoustic intelligence ships) operate not only against our strategic missile-armed craft but also against multipurpose submarines. In addition, their multipurpose submarines are engaged off our coasts not only in tracking missile-armed craft but also in performing other tasks: keeping the activity of the Russian Navy under surveillance, being in a state of readiness to deliver strikes against land-based and sea-based installations with cruise missiles and torpedoes (with conventional charges), placing mines near the fleet's base stations, and directly blockading the Russian Navy in its base regions. Finally, by tracking our SSBN's the U.S. and NATO ASW forces compel Russia to divert a considerable proportion of the Navy to maintaining the combat survivability of missile-armed craft, thereby seriously limiting the potential for combat actions by that section of the fleet.

It is doubtful that the United States would abandon all this to increase the security of our strategic missile-armed craft. Although if an ASW treaty had been concluded, this really would be evidence of a sufficiently high level of confidence. Nevertheless it would have been a treaty deriving from confrontational thinking, and a refusal to implement it or individual violations of it would have been a very simple matter, whereas verification would have been very difficult. Such a treaty, if one existed, could be made more reliable by an agreement to give Russia access to America's stationary hydroacoustic systems for observing submarine movements in the Atlantic and the Pacific. After all, the sides have agreed on "open land" and "open skies." Why not reach agreement on "open ocean" in the same sense?

Nevertheless, this path seems highly unlikely to me. There are more radical solutions which seem more realistic.

The abandonment of SSBN's as one element of the strategic triad, to be implemented in several stages while retaining the maximum number of ICBM's per side, is one solution—possibly within the framework of a future START III treaty or on the basis of agreed unilateral actions. The point of this proposal is primarily to do away with submarine-launched ballistic missiles, which are increasingly becoming a destabilizing factor and contain the risk of fatal error. After all, the U.S. Trident systems can carry up to 336 warheads, the Russian Typhoons 200: Thus, the destruction of one SSBN is equivalent to the withdrawal from service of nearly 34 MX ICBM's or 20 SS-18 ICBM's.

In my view, the renunciation of SSBN's as elements of the strategic triad could proceed by the following stages:

—the reduction of the number of missile-armed craft on patrol to a level where the nuclear warheads on them are sufficient to deliver an effective counterforce strike;

—the reduction of the number of missile-armed craft in the forces on permanent readiness by the verifiable removal of ballistic mssiles from them;

—the salvage or refitting of missile-armed craft removed from the combat force level under a special timetable;

—the involvement in this process of other countries armed with SSBN's.

The implementation of the first two stages could begin even during the fulfillment of the START I Treaty. But the complete implementation of these proposals will of course require the solution of the problem of sea-launched, nuclear-armed cruise missiles, which must obviously be scrapped.

I realize that my suggestions are unusual. But I think that their implementation would help to resolve some of the anomalies in the START II Treaty, consolidate strategic stability, strengthen confidence between Russia and the United States, and develop cooperation among the nuclear states.

Spokesman Says Yeltsin Postponing Visit to Japan

OW0605004093 Tokyo KYODO in English 2303 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Moscow, May 5 KYODO—A planned visit in May to Japan by President Boris Yeltsin has been postponed, a Russian presidential spokesman said Wednesday [5 May].

Anatoliy Krasikov told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the decision on the postponement was based on an agreement between the two countries.

INTERFAX NEWS AGENCY said Yeltsin will visit Japan in the fall, possibly in September or the beginning of October.

Spring was just one of the tentative dates for the visit, INTERFAX quoted sources in the president's office as saying.

Bilateral relations chilled after the Russian president abruptly canceled a scheduled visit to Japan last September, citing domestic problems.

He later blamed the cancellation on Japan's tough stance over the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Red Army a the end of World War II.

Yeltsin said in April he would reschedule a visit to Japan for late May.

Russia dispatched Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Knadze to Japan in late April to discus Yeltsin's Japan visit. The two countries had failed, however, to reach an accord on how to deal with the territorial dispute when Yeltsin visits Japan, Russian Government sources said.

Japan has refused to provide full-fledged bilateral economic assistance to Russia unless the territorial dispute is resolved.

But under international pressure to play a more active role to help Yeltsin, Japan has stopped linking the resolution of the territorial row to providing assistance within an international framework.

Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa, as this year's chairman of the annual economic summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations, to be held in Tokyo from July 7 to 9, has invited Yeltsin to Tokyo for talks with the G-7 leaders.

Sumio Edamura, Japan's ambassador to Moscow, said he had not been formally notified of the postponement by the Russian Government.

Edamura said Yeltsin had unilaterally set late May for his visit to Tokyo and there has been no concrete agreement on the date of the visit.

A Russian Foreign Ministry official said, "No one wants a unilateral measure" and that he is sure the Russian Government can reach an agreement with Japan on the postponement.

Trip To Be 25-27 May

LD0605082793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0530 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] As announced in Tokyo today, the Japanese Government intends, immediately after the national holiday, to set about working out a program for the visit of the Russian leader.

The Russian Government is evidently intending to do the same. Unless some kind of alterations are made, President Boris Yeltsin will make a trip to the Japanese islands from 25-27 May.

Literally on the eve of the summit meeting, roughly on 19-20 May, in New York, Kozyrev and Muto, the heads of the foreign ministries, will agree upon the remaining unresolved issues ensuing from the talks in Moscow with Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Saito. He is expected to come here in the next few days. At the same time, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Kunadze, who is in Tokyo, has already done a considerable part of the work together with Japanese diplomats. In particular, the sides have agreed on which documents will be presented to Yeltsin and Miyazawa for signing. All in all, ten are already ready.

Yeltsin To Attend G-7 Summit

LD0605064493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0637 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina; ITAR-TASS in English at 0820 GMT on 6 May transmits a service message killing this item]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin changed his decision and cancelled a visit to Japan scheduled for May. Talks on the issue are being held in Moscow with Japanese representatives, TASS was told on Thursday [6 May] by spokesman of the President Anatoliy Krasikov.

Krasikov refused to comment whether the decision is caused by the internal developments in Russia. He only noted that the president confirms his intention to attend the "G-7" summit in Tokyo.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0845 GMT on 6 May in a Moscow datelined report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina states: "President Boris Yeltsin will not go to Japan at the end of May, as he had stated earlier, TASS was told on Thursday [6 May] by spokesman of the president Anatoliy Krasikov.

"Krasikov said the decision was not caused by the internal developments in Russia. He noted that the president is preparing for the 'G-7' summit scheduled for July in Tokyo."]

Visit 'Practically Impossible'

LD0605134093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1318 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Preparations continue for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan, but it appears practically impossible to make this visit at the end of May since the parties have not yet succeeded in agreeing on how to coordinate the Russian and Japanese political schedules, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told ITAR-TASS today.

The Russian diplomat said good working contacts are being maintained with the Japanese side, many points have already been agreed on, and there are no major difficulties in view. "One should not picture it as a tragedy that the visit will not take place in May," he stressed.

Canada's Mulroney Supports Yeltsin Reforms

LD0605092393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0731 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Vasilets]

[Text] Ottawa May 6 TASS—In an interview with ITAR-TASS on the eve of his official visit to Moscow, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said he highly assesses the results of the recent Russian referendum. He believes these results will impart new viability to democratic reforms started by the Russian president. Summing up his attitude to changes in Russia he expressed the wish Russia and Yeltsin's revolution win and said he was determined to do everything possible for this to happen.

The Canadian prime minister expressed satisfaction with the fact that the Vancouver Russo-American

summit and the Tokyo round of the negotiations by representatives of the Group of Seven opened the road for West's substantial long-term assistance to Russia. It is extremely important for short-term problems against which the Russian Government is coming up. Long-term prospects are certainly for Russians to determine, Mulroney said. The architects of new Russia are Russians themselves. Canada is just giving Russia temporary assistance. Mulroney believes that the seeds of changes in Russia have been sown. It is now a matter of tending and protecting the crops. If this work is successful, Russia will turn into one of contemporary, rapidly developing and prosperous countries. The Canadian prime minister said Russia has everything needed for this—labour force, vast land, natural resources and highly educated and clever people. All that Russia needs is a democratic system and free market.

The prime minister expressed the confidence that Russians will create a Russian model of the economy.

He said he was certain that the Russian people was on the right track, that prosperity and opportunities were real and tangible. Mulroney expressed the readiness to work jointly with President Yeltsin, with Russian Government and people in whatever measure is possible to help achieve all this.

Arrives on Visit

LD0605125393 Moscow ITAR TASS in English 1233 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney arrived in the Russian capital today on a three-day official visit. His programme in Moscow includes talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The forthcoming talks will focus on practical aspects of Russo-Canadian cooperation, including trade and economics. In particular, the visit envisages discussions of a package of measures aimed at assisting reforms in Russia as announced by the Canadaian premier during the Russo-American summit held in Vancouver early in April 1993.

Among international issues to be discussed during the talks, one can single out the crisis in Yugoslavia and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The topical issue of the status of ethnic minorities on the territory of the former Soviet Union may also be touched upon.

A number of documents are expected to be signed and a joint Russo-Canadian communique is to be published during the Canadian premier's visit.

Welcomed by Yeltsin

LD0605125793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1251 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—A formal welcoming ceremony for Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was held in St. George's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow today. Russian President Boris Yeltsin greeted the Canadian prime minister and the state anthems of Russia and Canada were played.

After the ceremony Boris Yeltsin and Brian Mulroney left for the Russian president's residence outside Moscow for one-to-one talks.

Official Russian-Canadian talks will begin in the Kremlin on Friday [7 May].

Kozyrev Attends Welcoming Ceremony

LD0605134193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told journalists after the welcoming ceremony for Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in the Kremlin today that the Russian president's visit to Japan was possible in May or later when all documents are ready and the working schedules of the Russian president and the Japanese leaders are coordinated.

"The Russo-Japanese relations are developing on the basis of the positive signals exchanged by the prime minister of Japan and the president of Russia," Kozyrev said.

Joint Ocean Research Enterprise With Canada Agreed

LD0505213693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 5 May 93

[Excerpts] Dartmouth (Nova Scotia, Canada), 5 May—An agreement on setting up a joint enterprise was signed on 5 May by the P.P.Shirshov Institute of Oceanology and a Canadian firm from Ratmouth, (Nova Scotia), "International Marine Biodiversity Development Corporation" [IMBDC]. This joint enterprise of the Russian Academy of Sciences and IMBDC will use the unique possibilities of the Russian nuclear vessel Akademik Mstislav Keldysh and is two "MIR" deep-water apparatus to carry out a 10-year program of deep-water research into the oceans costing approximately 250 million Canadian dollars overall.

An agreement on seeting up this joint enterprise was signed on board the Akademik Keldysh. [passage omitted]

This joint enterprise will use the technological, scientific, and organizational potential of the Russian and Canadian sides in taking advantage of the commercial opportunities on the world's markets connected with the study of the seas. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives in Moscow

LD0505174293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1656 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Suleyman al-Shahin has arrived on a short working visit to Moscow today. The programme of his visit includes consultations in the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation on Russo-Kuwaiti relations and problems of the post-crisis settlement in the Persian Gulf and in the Middle East.

Tomorrow Suleyman al-Shahin is expected to meet with Russian Vice-Premier Georgiy Khizha, and also have a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at which he will hand over a message from Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah to Andrey Kozyrev.

Meets With Kunadze

LD0605084593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0837 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze met here on Thursday [6 May] with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sulayman al-Shahin, who arrived in Moscow yesterday on a short-term working visit, to discuss political and economic cooperation between Russia and Kuwait.

In the course of their meeting, the sides stressed the striving of the two countries for stepping up a political dialogue on international issues of mutual concern, in particular on those of post-crisis settlement in the Gulf area and in the Middle East on the whole.

When discussing the problems of economic cooperation, the deputy ministers pointed to the need for further development and extension of trade, economic and financial ties between the two states. With this in view, they came out for speeding up the signing of an agreement between the Russian Federation and Kuwait aimed at mutual boosting and protection of investments.

Navy Slams Ukraine's 'Privatization' of Russian Ships

PM0605081993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 May 93 p 2

[Sergey Ovsiyenko "Commentary": "Second Defector"]

[Text] The Ukrainian defense minister has issued Order No. 034 incorporating into the republic's Navy the Pacific Fleet's large ASW ship Sposobnyy, which is undergoing repair at the ship-repair yard in Sevastopol. Immediately afterwards the Defense Ministry "privatized" the Black Sea Fleet tanker Yelnya. The reason for the transfer of the ships under Ukrainian colors is that eight officers of the large ASW ship Sposobnyy took the Ukrianian oath of allegiance, while the crew of the tanker requested the Defense Ministry to incorporate it within the Ukrainian Navy.

We have a repetition of the similar situation involving the patrol escort ship SKR-112, which went over to the Ukrainian Navy almost one year ago. But it actually turned out that not all the crew of the SRK-112 wanted to become a collective deserter. Many of the sailors were misled by their commanders, whom they look up to.

In this regard the Russian Navy Press Center is authorized to state that such actions can only be described as most flagrant high-handedness. In examining the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's unilateral actions it should be noted that the Pacific Fleet's large ASW ship Sposobnyy, which temporarily forms part of the Black Sea Fleet, is the property of the Russian Federation Navy. And the taking of the Ukrainian oath by part of the crew does not constitute grounds for the ship's incorporation in the Ukrainian Navy. The claim that the captain of the tanker Yelnya requested the Ukrainian Defense Ministry to incorporate the crew in the Ukrainian Navy is a blatant lie. In his report to the commander of the Black Sea Fleet Nikolay Grebennik, captain of the tanker Yelnya, described such claims as "fabrication and disinformation."

Such actions by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry are scandalous breaches of the Yalta Agreements, exceed the bounds of civilized relations, and exacerbate to the limit the situation surrounding the Black Sea Fleet.

The Ukrainian side bears total responsibility for these actions, the statement stresses.

Latvian Visa Regime Disrupting 'Normal Communications'

PM0505085793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 May 93 First Edition p 8

[Irina Litvinova report: "From Latvia to Russia—on a Visa"]

[Text] The Russian Federation consular department in Latvia is beginning to accept visa applications from

citizens of that republic who wish to travel to the territory of their eastern neighbor.

Let me remind readers that Latvia was the first to introduce a visa regime for Russia and other CIS countries. Following a period of easy access, tough regulations came into force: Entry into Latvia was prohibited without a visa. Premier V. Chernomyrdin signed a decree 13 April on (authorized) visa entry into Russia by Republic of Latvia citizens. Under this document, the Russian Federation Security Ministry has been tasked with implementing passport and visa controls for Latvian citizens (the decree also applies to the Republic of Estonia) at checkpoints open for international passenger traffic on the Russian border. The Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs is to ensure monitoring of compliance by citizens of these Baltic states with the rules governing sojourns by foreigners in the Russian Federation.

And so the Balts' dream has come true: Russia has placed them on exactly the same footing as any other foreigners on its territory. But how will Latvia's stateless persons travel to Russia—those individuals who comprise almost half the population because no Latvian law on citizenship has yet been adopted? The decree states that a visa-free procedure for entry is to be retained for them, but only until 6 February 1995 (prior to that date they can easily get one, practically automatically, under Russian law).

Russian Consul in Latvia Georgiy Isakovskiy has stated that the visa regime is being introduced from 0000 hours on 12 May. The Russian consular departments in Latvia (at the moment only the department in Riga is up and running; it is planned to open a consular service in Liepaja and Daugavpils) is taking 10 days to process visa applications. The application form may be filled out in Russian or English and a payment of $3 will be necessary to translate the text from Latvian. A Russian visa will cost $10 (Latvia has started to ask for the same amount). It is also planned to issue transit visas (valid for 172 hours) and multiple-entry visas.

What are the first results in Latvia of the new regime for crossing the border? Ticket problems have disappeared: The number of visitors in Latvia has noticeably decreased. Horrendous lines have formed at departments where invitations from relatives, friends, or business partners are processed. The picture is the same at the consular service in Moscow. Normal communications are becoming increasingly difficult. For many people in Latvia telephone subscription is too expensive: A minute's conversation with Moscow, for example, costs almost $1. Letters to the east sometimes travel more slowly than letters to the west. Money orders do not function. So I would no longer even venture to call Latvia "a country close to home."

Portugal's Barroso in Moscow; Soviet Debt Issue Resolved

LD0505211693 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1800 GMT 5 May 93

[By correspondent Carlos Fino from Moscow]

[Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Durao Barroso is still in Moscow preparing the visit to Russia by Prime Minister Cavaco Silva early next month. One problem that seems to have been resolved is that of the debt of the former Soviet Union to Portuguese firms.

For the first time in many years, a Portuguese foreign minister has been driven through the Kremlin's main gate on business specifically concerned with Russo-Portuguese relations. And, also for the first time, there now appears to be a genuine mutual wish for a rapprochement.

[Begin Barroso recording] We live at opposite ends of Europe but many things bring us together, one such thing being the attachment to democracy and Portugal's understanding of the difficulties experienced during the transition to a fully democratic system. [end recording]

[Correspondent] This is the second attempt to reestablish the legal framework for mutual relations which was frozen, and in effect destroyed, after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. A number of initiatives from various political and social quarters—such as the first broadcast to Russia of the Fatima religious ceremonies two years ago—served only to signal the wish for a rapprochement, but in essence changed nothing. Suffice it to say that in the first quarter of this year Portuguese exports to Russia reached one of the lowest levels ever, totalling $3.8 million, a meager 570,000 contos [1 conto equals 1,000 escudos].

Now it appears that the present diplomatic drive means business. Andrey Kozyrev and Durao Barroso have told the media that when Cavaco Silva visits Moscow in a month the two countries will sign a friendship and cooperation treaty aimed at boosting bilateral relations. First, however, there is the outstanding problem of the debt owed by Russian firms to Portuguese enterprises, estimated at over 3 million contos. Durao Barroso discussed the problem today with Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov, and it was agreed that the matter be dealt with in the wider context of Russia's debt to the Western countries.

It will now be necessary to create the right kind of economic and financial instruments capable of arousing the interest of our businessmen and industrialists in this important market. Otherwise, as far as Portugal is concerned, Russia will remain a remote Eastern country.

CIS States Urged To Adopt Nonproliferation Treaty

LD0505224993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2030 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 6 May—Russia has urged the Ukraine, Kazakhstan and other CIS countries to accede rapidly to the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty. This is stated in a working document submitted by the Russian Federation at the main session of the General Assembly's disarmament commission, which is taking place at UN headquarters.

Among the priorities for multilateral disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, Russia singles out particularly the ensuring of the precise and consistent implementation of the accords already reached. "In this context, particular importance attaches to the implementation of the accords in the field of nuclear disarmament on the territory of the former USSR, and the rapid accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Ukraine, as well as other CIS states that have not yet taken the relevant steps, to the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty as non-nuclear states. Russia is abiding strictly by these agreements and is ready to provide assistance to interested sides with discharging the commitments they have undertaken that arise from these accords."

The document stresses that, in the run-up to the conference that will examine the effect of the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty in 1995, the efforts of the international community must be mobilized to the full in order to reinforce the treaty regime. The forthcoming conference may be a vital stage regarding giving the treaty a global and indefinite character.

EC Permanent Mission Opens in Tyumen Oblast

PM0605100593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 May 93 p 1

[Untitled RIA report]

[Text] An EC permanent mission has opened in Tyumen Oblast, RIA reports. As Vladimir Smalkov, deputy chairman of the oblast Committee for the Economy and Forecasting, reported, experts from the Community are elaborating programs for major investments in the Siberian oil and gas extraction complex and in the modernization of certain airports in the oblast, in order to turn them into international airports.

Danish Minister Says Russian-EC Talks Continue Successfully

LD0505201793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1938 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Stockholm May 5 TASS—Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen said at a news conference in Copenhagen that talks with the aim of signing an agreement on partnership and trade between Russia and the European Community are going ahead successfully.

As a representative of the country, which currently chairs EC leading bodies, Petersen expressed the hope that the talks would be completed before the beginning of another regular session of the European Council. The session of the council, involving heads of state and government of 12 EC countries, is to take place in Copenhagen on June 21-22.

Negotiations Between Russia, European Community Open

LD0605095993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Another round of official negotiations between Russia and the European Community [EC] opens in St. Petersburg on Thursday [6 May]. The agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the EC is in the focus of attention.

This is the forth round of negotiations and its results will show if the agreement will be ready for the signing in the second half of June 1993, ITAR-TASS learned from the Russian Foreign Ministry. The sides are striving to conclude the work within that timeframe since the six months of Denmark's presiding over the EC will be concluded in June, and a session of the European Council of the Communities at the level of heads of state and government is planned to be held in Copenhagen on June 21-22. Moscow hopes to prepare for initialling an agreement on "12 plus 1" formula, that is by 12 member countries of the Community and Russia.

Experts of several dozens of Russian ministries and agencies participate in the negotiating process. Their purpose is to draft an agreement that would fully take into account Russian interests, not only those of the EC.

Early in April, the Twelve decided to step up the negotiations with Russia and include in the agreement an item on a zone of free trade between Russia and the Common Market. At the same time, EC members wish the document to contain a reservation suspending a number of clauses in case of human rights violations in Russia. As to the timeframe and level of signing the agreement, Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen said in Copenhagen on Wednesday it would be good if Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived for the ceremony of signing in the Danish capital on the eve of the session of the European Council. The minister expressed the confidence that the agreement will be drafted by that time.

Results of Trade Delegation's Visit to South America

LD0505201193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1420 GMT 5 May 93

[Excerpts] Sergey Glazyev, Russian minister of foreign economic relations, held a news conference in Moscow today to sum up the results of a visit by that ministry's delegation to Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil. For more

details, over to our correspondent Aleksandr Kurilin, who reports over the telephone.

[Kurilin] Thank you. Yes, the news conference has just finished. The minister said that during the visit official talks were held with leading political figures and with representatives of business circles in those countries. The talks resulted in the signing of an agreement on trade and economic cooperation between Russia and Paraguay, and a Russian-Brazilian agreement on industrial cooperation in aircraft building. A number of other issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

The Russian delegation's visit confirmed that government and business circles in those Latin American countries are quite interested in developing extensive cooperation with Russia. There is considerable potential for increasing Russia's exports to these countries, especially exports of equipment and machinery, high-tech products, and services. In turn, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, and Argentina can offer a wide range of raw materials, foodstuffs, and manufactured goods.

There also seems to be favorable prospects for cooperation in science and production and for various nontraditional forms of cooperation, as they are sometimes called, such as leasing, exchange of licences, and know-how.

It was also noted at the news conference that a need for talks of this kind arose long ago because our trade balance with these countries has always been in their favor, i.e. we imported more than we exported. [passage omitted]

One last remark: It was stated today that Cuba remains the main foreign supplier of sugar to Russia. [passage omitted]

Kolokolov Sums Up Results of South Africa Trip

LD0505172193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Kulik]

[Text] Pretoria May 5 TASS—Russia and South Africa have a large, but so far insufficiently used potential to develop comprehensive mutually beneficial relations, special representative of the Russian president and Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov said here today.

The official came to this conclusion after meetings with South African President Frederik de Klerk, leader of the African National Congress Nelson Mandela and other South African politicians. During the five-day South African visit he passed over to Frederik de Klerk and Nelson Mandela personal messages of Boris Yeltsin.

Speaking on Wednesday at the airport before his departure from South Africa, Kolokolov stressed "South African leaders show great interest in consolidation of relations with Russia. First ever Moscow-Pretoria interstate agreements, including the ones on trade, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation, may be signed in the next few months."

Speaking of South African problems, the official stressed "the adherence of De Klerk and Mandela to the successful continuation of peaceful negotiations to create a new South Africa. South African leaders clearly understand there is no wise alternative to the negotiations. Russia is interested in the soonest peaceful settlement in South Africa, which will create conditions for cooperation with all states of the region".

"The South African stay was a success. Its results inspire optimism and testify to the right development of bilateral relations," he noted.

Slow Democratization Hinders Consolidation of RSA Ties

MB0605091493 Moscow Radio Moscow in Afrikaans 1700 GMT 5 May 93

[Commentary by Vladislav Chernukha; read by announcer]

[Text] Russian state official and representatives from the trade and industry sectors are currently visiting South Africa after the two countries signed diplomatic ties in February last year. The South Africans believe that the visits must be reciprocal.

Ten months ago President F.W. de Klerk visited Moscow and held talks with President Yeltsin. Mr. de Klerk met the Russian convoy yesterday. A personal message from President Yeltsin was handed to Mr. de Klerk. Mr. Kolokolov discussed the nature of future relations between the two countries, firstly with the president, and then with Foreign Minister Pik Botha. Both sides remarked that relations between these two countries have consolidated considerably over the last year. However, there are still more than enough opportunities which could be exploited in the sphere of foreign policy, trade, technology, economy, science, culture and humanitarianism.

Mr. Kolokolov and the South African group decided without beating about the bush that efforts will have to be made to expand mutual ties. Mr. Kolokolov's visit will probably speed up this process. The envoy said after the talks that documents regarding trade, economy, science, technology and cultural ties are envisaged, as well as links between the two countries' foreign ministers. The document is not yet fully coordinated, and for that reason its signing has been postponed.

The consolidation of ties is being made difficult by the slow process of democratization in both countries.

Victory, May Day Activities

Preparations for 9 May Victory Day Viewed

Red Square Rallies Prohibited

LD0505194793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] By decision of the Moscow Mayor's Office, Red Square and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier will be open for visits by private individuals on 9 May. However, rallies and processions in Red Square are banned.

Communist Party Denied Rally

LD0505181593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—The Moscow city administration and organizers of planned mass rallies have failed to reach accord on the celebration of the Victory Day on May 9. A conference to this effect was held between the Moscow governing bodies and representatives of socio-political groups of the opposition in the Moscow mayor's office today.

In accordance with an instruction issued by the Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, the right to hold a rally was granted to the Union of Officers and the Russian Liberal Democratic Party. Attempts by the "Trudovaya Rossiya" (Labour Russia) Movement and the Russian Communist Party to join a march by the Union of Officers scheduled to begin after 11 a.m. from Belorusskaya railway station to Sovetskaya Square, were resolutely cut short at the conference by the chief of the Mayor's Office Department for Legal Affairs.

Under a document, signed by the head of the city administration, the number of participants in a meeting scheduled on Sovetskaya Square is not to exceed 30,000. The meeting is to continue until 13 p.m. [as received]

During the conference it was pointed out that both delegations and private citizens can lay flowers and wreaths on the grave of the Unknown Soldier.

Supporters of the Liberal Democratic Party are to hold a meeting outside the Central House of Artists on Krymskiy Val.

'Attempts on Yeltsin's Life' Planned

LD0505213093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 5 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] President Yeltsin's supporters state that various nasty surprises can still be expected from the opposition, and according to a POSTFACTUM report Yushenkov, one of the leaders of the Radical Democrats, even expressed the opinion today that attempts on Yeltsin's life during the forthcoming days of festivities are being prepared.

Yushenkov says he is citing information from the Ministry of Security. In his opinion opposition extremists dissatisfied with the results of the referendum are fully capable of such acts. This report came from the POSTFACTUM agency.

Democrats Warn of Attack on Yeltsin

PM0605101193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 May 93 p 2

[Dmitriy Babich report: "Deputies Will Defend Yeltsin with Their Bodies"]

[Text] At a news conference held yesterday in the Russian Press House Sergey Yushenkov, Gleb Yakunin, Lev Ponomarev, and Boris Zolotukhin, democratic deputies in the Russian parliament, declared that, according to information at their disposal, on 9 May the national-communist opposition is preparing not only mass riots but also an attempt on the life of President Yeltsin (let us remind you that on Victory Day both the president and "Working Moscow" intend to lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior). In this connection the deputies urged law-enforcement organs to charge the 26 participants in the 1 May riots already detained and to identify on the video tape and detain the rest.

The deputies called for the dissolution of the present Supreme Soviet and the Congress and for the speediest adoption of the new constitution. For this to happen at least 350 deputies must renounce their mandates. According to Sergey Yushenkov, approximately 200 democrat deputies already support the dissolution of the Congress, while the democrats hope to "pick up" the remaining 150 votes among wavering centrist deputies at a special conference which, according to Lev Ponomarev, is to take place in mid-May.

Groups Call For Renaming Holiday

LD0605104093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1011 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—The Victory Day, May 9, must become a national reconciliation day. This call was made by representatives of public, trade union, women's, youth and veterans' organisations who met on Thursday [6 May] with Russian Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

In their address made public at the meeting, representatives of organisations called on the Russian president to prevent the split between compatriots, to act as the guarantor of civic peace and national accord. Representatives of the public urged the Parliament, people's

deputies to be above political preferences, to rally all sober-minded people who sincerely want democratic renewal of the country.

During the meeting, proposals were made for measures to be taken in the run-up to the Victory Day in order to prevent the repetition of the tragic events that took place in Moscow on the May Day. The Russian Parliament intends to ask people's deputies at every level actively to participate in the preparation for the Victory Day and festively to observe it together with people.

Possible Provocations Foreseen

PM0605113393 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 May 93 p 2

[Statement by the Russian Federation Communist Party Central Executive Committee "Let Us Be Vigilant!" signed by the Presidium of the Russian Federation Communist Party Central Executive Committee]

[Text] The logic and nature of recent events and of reports in the official press following on from the tragic provocation in Moscow on May Day provide grounds to draw certain conclusions and make certain forecasts. The same forces which are interested in a further escalation of the civil conflict in our long-suffering Fatherland may stage another equally wide-ranging bloody provocation in the capital on Victory Day. It is quite possible that on this holiday which our entire people hold sacred they will once again try to embroil possible demonstrators in a clash with OMON [Special-Purpose Militia Detachment] and militia forces.

We ask our party comrades, all Muscovites, and visitors to the capital not to allow themselves to be provoked by demagogic slogans, to retain their self-possession and vigilance, refrain from taking part in any unauthorized measures, and ignore extremist appeals no matter from where they may come. On that day let us be worthy of the radiant memory of our compatriots, fathers, and grandfathers who gave man's most prized possession—their lives—for the freedom and independence of our homeland.

Best wishes for Victory Day, Dear Fellow Citizens, Comrades!

[Signed] The Presidium of the Russian Federation Communist Party Central Executive Committee.

Further Reportage on May Day Activities

Working Russia Picketing White House

LD0505161293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Since this morning, fresh forces from Working Russia have joined the picket outside the White House bringing the overall number of participants to about 1,000. Lively discussion of the events of 1 May continued, to which people have already managed to add more details about the brutality of the Special Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON]. A collection was under way to raise money to continue the picket, help those who suffered and, as was announced - "to bury our comrades." Signatures backing the Soviet constitution were also being collected.

Viktor Anpilov, the leader of Working Russia, who arrived at about 1100, gave a short briefing announcing that the application to demonstrate on 9 May, submitted by Working Russia, has not been canceled, and he released his worker's detachment [druzhina] until evening. But about 100 of the most staunch picketers carrying red flags and banners denouncing the president and government remained outside the walls of the White House.

Within the walls of the White House, there are some very interesting events on the agenda. This morning a closed sitting of the Council of Factions [sovet fraktsii] opened with opposition and centrist deputies' groups taking part. Neither Democratic Russia representatives nor deputies from the Coalition for Reforms attended this sitting. It is believed that the Council of Factions discussed further parliamentary action in connection with the events of 1 May, which will apparently also be the main theme at the sitting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, convening at 1500. It is expected that the final results of the Russian referendum held on 25 April will be announced at the Presidium.

The official results of the referendum will be announced by Vasiliy Kazakov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission. It is possible that the question of the president's draft new Russian constitution will be raised, which [Supreme Soviet Chairman] Ruslan Khasbulatov believes is good only for a colonial Latin American republic. I think all these events warrant the convocation of a session of the Supreme Soviet tomorrow and not on 12 May, as was announced earlier, and the Presidium will most likely make this decision.

At the [Supreme Soviet] session, deputies of a democratic persuasion intend to raise the question of urgently convening a Congress of People's Deputies, and have already started collecting signatures. The Congress, they believe, should put into effect the results of the referendum, at which the people came out in support of the president.

Anpilov Says 3 Killed

LD0505150893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Deputy [Viktor] Anpilov, one of the organizers of the May Day demonstration on Gagarin Square which ended so tragically, addressed the inner council of the Moscow Soviet today. He named three people who, he alleged, were tragically killed in the clash with the OMON riot police. Solovyev, head of Moscow's Chief Medical Directorate, categorically denied the claim and

called it a bare-faced lie. Not a single demonstrator was killed, he told a correspondent for the Informkuranty news agency.

Organizers, Participants Responsible

LD0505175993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Viktor Mironov, Moscow city chief inspector and a people's deputy, has laid the entire responsibility for the bloodshed on Leninskiy Prospekt in the capital on 1 May on the organizers of and participants in the demonstration from "Working Russia", the National Salvation Front, and the Officers' Union.

The chief inspector's statement circulated on 5 May denounces attempts made by a number of organizations and officials—including those in the Supreme Soviet—to relieve political extremists from responsibility.

The Moscow chief inspector also warns that attempts by the irreconcilable opposition to repeat a provocation on 9 May will be resolutely stopped. The executive authorities will not allow Russia to slide toward a civil war, the reforms to be rolled back, or totalitarian order to be restored.

Militia Did Not Intend Confrontation

LD0505173293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1611 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—"During the May 1 manifestation of the pro-communist opposition in Moscow, militiamen did not intend to confront with the demonstrators. That is why when demonstrators began violent actions, many organisational, tactical and technical miscalculations were revealed," Major-General of Militia Pavel Chernyshov, deputy head of the Chief Department of Maintenance of Public Order of the Russian Interior Ministry, told ITAR-TASS here today.

These miscalculations resulted in many militiamen being injured. According to the latest estimates from the Interior Ministry of the Russian Federation, 355 militiamen received injuries during the May 1 demonstration, Pavel Chernyshov explained.

"The foundation of any legal state is law-abiding behaviour of its citizens. I did not see this during the tragic events on May 1," Pavel Chernyshov noted. The decision on the order of conducting the demonstration was made by the Moscow city hall, and the militia were obliged to ensure security and maintenance of public order, the major-general said.

According to Pavel Chernyshov, in fulfilling the order militiamen acted selflessly. The major-general said that strict legal action should be taken against initiators of the tragic events in Moscow on May 1.

Yeltsin Sends Condolences

LD0505170593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1643 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a cable to present his condolences to the family of OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] Police Officer Vladimir Tolokneyev, who died of wounds inflicted in clashes with rally participants on May 1.

"The past does not leave without resistance. The investigation will name the culprits of large-scale riots on May 1, 1993, deadly wounds of your son, husband and father. One thing can be said for sure—Vladimir died for new Russia", says the cable.

Procurator General's Office Cited

LD0505195593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1919 GMT 5 May 93

[By CRIME-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—"Actions of rally organizers carry signs of administrative violations," says a report of the Russian Procurator General's Office Information and Public Relations Center on first results of the investigation into the May 1 Moscow developments circulated here today.

The report says they made an attempt to deviate from the march route, fixed by the Moscow Mayor's Office, and grossly violated a number of rules. Thus, representatives of some movements and parties, namely Lakeyev (Labor Moscow), Gusev and Khudyakov (Labor Russia), Kokhanyuk (Union of Communists) and Skurlatov (Revival Party), will be brought to administrative responsibility.

An application for the Moscow City Council's agreement to bring to responsibility People's Deputy Anpilov (Labor Moscow) has been sent to the Moscow City Council. A similar appeal to the Russian Supreme Soviet is being prepared by the Russian Procurator General's Office as regards Deputy Sayenko (the National Salvation Front).

At the same time, the investigators are verifying the involvement of these and other persons in organization of large-scale riots - arson, resistance to representatives of the authorities and others. Over 20 direct participants in these events have been revealed. One of them has been charged with active violent resistance to police officers. The man has been arrested.

The Procurator General's Office has decided to increase the investigators' team to 70 members due to the large amount of work. They keep close contact with corresponding operative services of the interior and security bodies.

No Comment From Investigating Team

PM0605091793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 93 First Edition p 2

[Valeriy Yakov report: "Prosecutor's Office Refrains From Comment"]

[Text] Nobody was answering the telephones in the Russian Prosecutor's Office 4 May, and the receiver was picked up immediately only at the headquarters of the investigation team set up especially to enquire into the circumstances of the May Day events in Moscow...

The team is working around the clock, but without excessive haste. The identities of participants in the events are being established, statements are being taken from those whose names are known, and all documents relating to the organization of the mass demonstrations are being gathered. However, group leader Georgiy Chuglazov, when asked by IZVESTIYA to comment on the progress of the inquiry, categorically refused to do so, declaring that work has only just begun and matters are not quite as clear to the investigation team as they seem to be to the gentlemen expounding their evaluations on television.

To be frank, such a laconic answer from the Prosecutor's Office is inspiring in itself—to all appearances, the investigation team intends to be guided not by sundry political interests, but purely by the legislation.

Comment on Khasbulatov 4 May Speech

PM0605094593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Chugayev report: "R. Khasbulatov Plays 'May Day Card'"]

[Text] The head of the Russian parliament has said in the past that he never says anything by accident. Experience shows that he was quite right in saying that. This fact compels us to study R. Khasbulatov's speeches very attentively since you can predict fairly accurately the Russian leadership's actions on that basis.

The Supreme Soviet chairman's statement on Russian Television 4 May, a statement devoted to evaluating the events of May Day in Moscow, proved no exception in this respect. I think that it enables us to see who needed bloodshed in the capital at that time and why.

The least interesting part of the speaker's speech was the section where, despite the fact that investigative organs have not yet finished their work (likewise the commission of deputies set up with Khasbulatov's involvement), and while acknowledging in the same speech that he lacks sufficiently complete information about the events, he nevertheless acted as a kind of supreme judge and passed a guilty verdict on the Moscow authorities. It was hard to expect anything different from the head of parliament. However, other passages in the Supreme Soviet chairman's speech attract more serious attention.

The main idea was perhaps voiced at the very beginning of the speech. R. Khasbulatov said that a new social situation had emerged in Russia since May Day. You could see from what the speaker went on to say that the crux of this situation resides in the confrontation between the "broad alliance of antimafia forces of very diverse political orientation" and the "mafia authorities and their lofty patrons." For all the outward absurdity of this wording there is profound sense in it.

Let us recall that, literally as soon as the preliminary results of the referendum had become known, R. Khasbulatov and his confederates launched a very real campaign to discredit the results of the national ballot. The speaker's television statement harked back to this campaign when he described the referendum results as a "victory for parliamentarianism." In Khasbulatov's opinion it turns out that the referendum showed that most Russian citizens do not support the president, but support the Congress. Consequently, it is logical to talk about a clash between the overwhelming majority of honest citizens and the corrupt mafia grouping that has taken power. The events of May Day should, apparently, serve as a good illustration of this idea. What we have by and large is a very new social situation: On the one hand, you have the people led by the bulwark of democracy—the parliament—and, on the other hand, an executive "bent on dictatorship" and beating up peaceful demonstrators. There is every indication that this is the way in which the parliament's leaders decided to get out of the situation in which they found themselves following the referendum.

Here is a noteworthy detail: Having begun his speech by saying that he wanted to set out his own, that is personal understanding of what happened, R. Khasbulatov slipped fairly rapidly from using "I" to "we." "We believe," "We will take steps..." It is logical to ask: On whose behalf was the head of the parliament speaking? On behalf of the whole Supreme Soviet? The Congress? On behalf of those deputies and factions who have followed the example set by their colleague N. Travkin and are calling for the dissolution of the Congress? Judging by the content of the speaker's statement, he is speaking on behalf of that section of the legislature who are perfectly well aware that surrendering their mandates as deputies would mean the end of their political careers, unlike N. Travkin. It turned out that the majority of these legislators today are to be found among the parliamentary leadership. It is they who are fighting to the death today to keep their posts as deputies. Judging by R. Khasbulatov's statement, the events of May Day have given these people an excuse to once again "emerge from the trenches" in which they found themselves after the referendum.

R. Khasbulatov set out an extremely clear plan of action for the opposition. First the Supreme Soviet and the Congress which he heads will try to adopt their own Constitution and prevent the adoption of the draft submitted by the president, which the speaker for some reason described as "colonial" and "Latin American."

Thus, despite the referendum results, it is obvious that the Supreme Soviet leadership has opted for a course not of cooperating with the president and the government, but of escalating the confrontation. The Supreme Soviet chairman also promised that the Supreme Soviet and the Congress would put forward their own "full-scale project for reforms" and would also create a parliamentary majority party based on a "broad alliance of progressive forces."

One is bound to agree with R. Khasbulatov on one thing in his evaluation of the events of May Day: This was a previously planned provocation. By whom? R. Khasbulatov has his own view on this subject. However, it would be appropriate to recall the well-known rule—seek the culprits among those who stood to gain from the crime. Neither the president, nor the Russian Government, nor Moscow City Hall have reaped any political dividends from the clash at the Kaluga Gate. Only losses. While you can see from R. Khasbulatov's television statement that parliament's leadership is assiduously playing the "May Day card."

Political Issues

Further Reportage on Referendum Results

Central Electoral Commission Cited

LD0505162193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—In fact, the referendum was a consultative event, Deputy Head of the Central Electoral Commission on Referendum Mikhail Kukushkin told a news conference at the Russian House of Soviets upon the completion of a commission meeting to confirm the official referendum results.

In his words, the commission has received 515 appeals (the last one was received today) on various violations during the April referendum, but "the violations did not influence the referendum results in respect of percentage".

Over 78,000 Russian citizens, working abroad, participated in the referendum. Over 62 per cent answered "yes" to the first question, over 55 to the second, over 45 to the third and over 71 to the fourth.

As for servicemen, they for the first time were given the right to vote at local civilian polling stations. Thus, the results of their voting are included in general information from electoral districts.

Factions Evaluate Results

LD0505155493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Factions of the Russian parliament have expressed their attitude toward the results of the referendum and the events on 1 May in Moscow. Andrey Golovin, a people's deputy, has informed the Postfaktum agency that today representatives of factions of Radical Democrats, Democratic Russia, and Union for Progress evaluated at their meeting the results of the referendum and spoke out for strengthening the legality of the president of Russia by the president himself and for giving him some additional rights in contradistinction to the deputies, because the majority of people who took part in the referendum voted for their recall. The representatives of these factions evaluated the events on 1 May and blamed the organizers of the demonstrations for what happened. In their turn, the representatives of the Russian Unity bloc noted that a majority of participants in the referendum voted for the re-election of the president and because of this, the legality of the president and the deputies was undermined. They accused representatives of the Moscow authority and some radicals of the opposition of the tragic events on 1 May. Golovin said that factions representing the center forces did not decide what their attitude toward the events on 1 May is, and they expressed their regret for what had happened. But nevertheless, they are inclined to apply to the Moscow authorities and ask them to be more flexible during the celebration on 9 May to avoid the repetition of clashes.

Post-Referendum Future Pondered

PM0505150593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 93 First Edition p 5

[Candidate of Economic Sciences Aleksandr Daniyelov article: "The Referendum Has Been Won. Time To Tie Up All the Loose Ends"]

[Text] Is it correct to claim, as some people do, that the only loser in the referendum was the opposition, and not the entire corps of deputies? After all, it is obvious to anyone in full possession of his senses that, despite the juridical maintenance of the status quo, today's Russian legislators (or at least the majority of them) have disgraced themselves to such an extent that they would be unable to recover even if they did serve their full term. What actual powers will be vested henceforth in the federal "chosen people" to solve Russia's diverse fundamental political problems? The referendum results manifest a gap between the formal and the substantive in maintaining the Russian representative authority as presently composed. It is easy to assume that the most surprising and startling interpretations of the referendum results still lie in store for society—the "implacables" have yet to express their official view, apart from the remarks by Baburin who, according to the logic of his usual manic state of mind, has again raised the call for the president's resignation.

It is obvious that both the Supreme Soviet and the Congress will remain restive for some time to come. The opposition will probably do everything possible to provoke coarse actions by the president. They will probably try again to amend the Constitution, more than likely on the points concerning the leadership of executive organs and state mass media. First, however, it has already been made clear to the president's side that the attacker always loses in the present situation, and there are no reasons to expect that, following 25 April, Yeltsin will see himself as a great dictator. The lesson of the ill-prepared 20 March statement has no doubt been learned (but let us note that had it not been for this statement there would have been no referendum). Now it is evident that people on the president's side of the table have acquired a taste for accurately planned and professionally prepared victories and have abandoned the tactics of crippling ultimatums. Second, subsequent congresses will hardly be identical to the previous ones (or the last three at least). The opposition now is hardly likely to muster even once the requisite majority of votes, since the inert section of deputies who have supported it in the past will more than likely switch to the opposite side—the custom in our country is to respect strength, and strength does not lie with the oppositionists today. It is to be hoped that the democratic bloc of deputies will now follow the example of its opponents and will at long last take coordinate actions according to a unified tactical scenario.

Attempts to pin all blame for the referendum's outcome on the mass media alone will also yield no results. "They (the mass media) regularly dupe the population"—this is an almost verbatim quotation of what is being said today in the Supreme Soviet lobbies and by the "spiritual opposition" organs. Let us control our inner protest at being, just like before, nothing but a statistical "population" which apparently can be "duped," and ask: How about the fact that, throughout Russia's 75 years of Soviet history, the press which was totally controlled by the communist party (while any "spiritual opposition" was either inside the KGB camps, or inside mental institutions, or exiled from the country) simply failed to "dupe the population" and the "population" cast the revered CPSU off its back at the first convenient opportunity?... Maybe we will be better off without sophistry?

But enough about the deputies. They were elected back in times past, in a country which has receded into the past, and the Constitution was adopted by them at that time and in that country. The attitudes adopted by most of them toward the realities of today's life are as relevant as the references to the USSR in their Constitution. No matter how the present assembly of deputies agonizes, it has already played its trump card. The game has now switched away from the Kremlin's fortifications to Russia's wide open spaces. The opposition has clearly hit a losing streak at federal level. At federal level.... What about at other levels?

Today the victors evidently have more headaches than their opponents. The lack of confidence in the president expressed by one-half of the autonomous formations and 10 oblasts is a serious enough ground for reflection. The referendum results in Ingushetia (the very republic whose head is so loyal to Yeltsin and pins such hopes on him!) should be framed and put on the desk of each member of the president's team for daily observation and analysis. One more point: The results of local authority elections which were held in several of the country's regions in parallel with the all-Russian poll. The elections were won mainly by members of "Working" something or other, of some "Front" or other, or by sundry other "defenders" of the fatherland. A solid communist front is taking shape in the South—Bryansk, Lipetsk, Orel, Tula, and elsewhere. In the light of the switch of emphasis in determining the political and economic strategy for the state's development away from Moscow's edifices and to the regional White Houses, the emerging state of affairs can hardly be said to hold any rosy prospects for Russia's power elite today.

The deposition (at times legitimate, at other times not) of many oblasts' not only discredited but also incompetent (and therefore discredited) presidential proteges who have failed—and at times did not even intend—to tangibly change the local people's lives for the better, as well as the revenge by yesterday's helmsmen, represent yet another palpable blow at the symbols of the country's new democratic structure, because there have been frequent occasions when, as soon as the "democrat" (after all, all and sundry swear their devotion to democracy today!) leader has departed, the state's tricolor is taken off the flagpole to be replaced by the painfully familiar flag with the hammer and sickle. "Another change of authority," to quote the apathetic philistine from a play set during the Civil War. The victory over the present majority of Congress deputies—who are just cardboard cutouts, hopelessly obsolete, and ridiculous even to themselves—was probably the easiest of victories, even though it proved hard to achieve. But we must be clearly aware that the main clashes—prolonged and exhausting at the microlevel of oblast, city, rayon, and plant—are still to come. Something else that is still to come is the question of sorting things out with the professional revolutionaries and experienced leaders of all opposition forces, which were only tempered by, and gained fresh experience from, their latest defeat.

The "presidential" parties ought to ponder: What has driven all those people, who have nothing in common with national-communists, into the ranks of the present opposition? Is it only the feeling of hurt pride and personal resentment because they were not invited to share the state pie in the past? Is it not time for these parties to seek an answer within themselves? For example, how has it happened that social democrats and ordinary democrats have ended up on different sides of the watershed?

The Russian Government, whose legitimacy in office has now been confirmed, must carefully monitor the independent public opinion polls and commission special ones. Not polls asking questions like "Do you support

the reds or the whites?", but covering the broad spectrum of the most pressing problems of our difficult times. It is time to clearly realize that the rulers who will be able to remain in office will be those who rule for the people's sake and not for the sake of their personal pleasure, because henceforth—let us hope—the people alone will be this country's supreme judges in the event of any fresh "conflict" or "crisis." It will be necessary to gather and foster all productive ideas, regardless of their source—even if they originate from sworn enemies. Regardless of attitudes toward the vice president's prereferendum maneuvers, someone please tell me: Does anyone have the slightest doubt that Russia has always been ruthlessly plundered, and that nowadays the state is being plundered on a truly Rabelaisian scale by all branches of power because they have never before had such opportunities to plunder. And if someone in a government office or some other executive organ intends to nod in assent—You better look at the way the deputies are lining their pockets—this will not be acceptable as an excuse. There is just one charge to be leveled at the "democratic" ministries: Not that the bribery of functionaries started under them, but that—even under them—this eternal abuse continues as before, without being curbed.

There are more questions to be asked of the president and of those who are allowed access to decisionmaking at state level. First of all, what is happening to all the promises made before 25 April (let us emphasize: all of them; God forbid that even one of them should be overlooked)?

There is a great danger that the democratic parties' radical wing will now exert more pressure on the president than anyone else. We would, of course, like to see everything taking shape sooner and at once—"like in the civilized countries." But is Russia—from Pskov to Sakhalin—ready for such a race? Is it possible to break with mentality, tradition, and history on the march? One would imagine that the president ought to take up a position somewhere halfway between the conventional radical democrats and those who style themselves centrists. (Naturally, it is necessary to do everything to drive the ultranationalists and the defenders of the "socialist choice" as far away as possible from the parameters of the sociopolitical spectrum. Yes, to do—rather than to simply snap in response to their propaganda.) Russia today is far better attuned to the calmness of the businesslike and politically modest Chernomyrdin than to the soapbox oratory of humanitarians from the boards of parties whose aim is to overthrow. The time has come to reduce the amplitude of the pendulum's swing, because a departure of the team now in power could lead to renewed radicalism by today's opposition. This departure could be prompted by any one of the following: Failure to implement in the immediate future any positive changes in the socioeconomic situation of the majority of citizens; the state's inability to protect them from the market's frenzied offensive, the inevitable rise of crime, and the emergence of the already inevitable scum of nouveaux riches; the lack of skills to encourage the development of the material production sector; the disregard of regional problems or their ill-considered solution; preferential orientation toward the geopolitical West to the detriment of the historic struggle waged by Russia/the USSR for influence in "third world" countries; and lots and lots more.... The radicalism engendered in response would be fatal for society. Look at neighboring Lithuania. It is, of course, stupid to compare the former party comrades Brazauskas and Zyuganov (the Lithuanian Communists are still liberal in the West European style), but the calamity would be that, in the event of a fiasco befalling the present political and economic reforms, it will certainly not be some benevolent Brazauskas who would come to power in Russia.

Democracy—proper 100-percent democracy rather than today's anarchy—must triumph in Russia. It may not have another chance. Even though the present corps of deputies has done everything possible to befoul the idea of representative power, it does not befit the executive power to whitewash itself at the expense of further tarnishing the legislators. Yes, the chairman of the Constitutional Court is undoubtedly right in constantly repeating that it is better to live under a bad Constitution than without one altogether. Who can argue against that! But who will say: For how long can we live under that same old bad one?

The new Constitution must be adopted. But by whom and when was it conceived that the new draft should give such autocratic powers to the president? Once again a resort to extremes in response to the recently humbled status of the incumbent? Imagine for just a moment that, by some oversight, one of the "National Salvation Front" generals becomes president. Who will be able to curb and control him? I think that checks and balances between the branches of power with clear limitations on the powers exercised by each of them should be the basic principle which must be rigorously observed. After all, the embodiment of democracy is neither the president, not even the most popular president, nor the parliamentarians, not even the most principled and most competent parliamentarians. Democracy means that legislators have an opportunity to prove their case, that the president has an opportunity to prove his, that the court lays down the framework of legality, and that we, the people, make the ultimate decision.

One last point. The democratic section of society, which ensured Yeltsin's victory both in 1991 and now, is entitled to ask: What will happen, will "Democratic Russia" appear only at times of constitutional cataclysms and new elections? What about the dull but absolutely necessary daily work to attract potential voters? Esteemed gentlemen, how will you train replacements for today's political leaders? For how long will sexagenarians be the democrats' leading gurus? Okudzhava's songs are wonderful, of course, but we are approaching the end of the century and it is mainly new rhythms that are fashionable in the world today.

It cannot be ruled out that there will be no early presidential elections. But what will you do in 1996? Where is the personality to enjoy even one-half of Yeltsin's popularity in the country? It is already clear that this should be someone from a completely different generation—aged between just over 40 and just over 50, by way of a rough guideline. Unfortunately, no such people can be seen among those peeking from behind the president's back. Maybe, for the sake of the supreme interests of the cause—more important than clan and factional interests—there ought to be a solid search in all directions to produce in good time a candidate for major league politics. He should be picked not only on the basis of brain and democratic beliefs (this goes without saying), but also according to the national preferences of the majority of voters, taking into account appearance, character, and even surname. Now it is necessary to be liked—gone are the times when the country could be ruled by decrepit and weak-willed dolls, unable to even talk intelligently. It is, however, necessary to bank on those who will be fancied not just by liberal academics and prosperous businessmen.

Be that as it may, the dramatic events of the last six months became possible only thanks to Russia's entry into the system of democracy, even though a democracy burdened by the rudiments of totalitarianism, and these events have furthermore brought us closer to the moment when it will become obvious to everyone: No way could we turn back, and it would be senseless to do so.

Voting Majority Rejects Communist Opposition

LD0505125493 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0730 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The communist idea is a fusion of knowledge, convictions, and practical actions. This is a quote from one of the speeches by Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. I am not sure that the leader of the Soviet state was right with regard to knowledge, but convictions and practical actions were indeed fully demonstrated by communists, national patriots, and their supporters on 1 May in Moscow's Gagarin Square. However, ideas become a force when masses make them their own, as was said by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, but there is a problem. The peoples of Russia rejected communist ideas by voting at the referendum in favor of the president and his economic reforms. The referendum has shown that the views held by people's representatives—I mean the opposition—do not correspond to the views of those who had once elected them.

It would be interesting to know the reaction of deputies, who are so fond of talking on behalf of their electors, to the following referendum results. According to the data from the Central Electoral Commission, in the 539th territorial electoral district in Omsk, which is represented by deputy Baburin [cochairman of the National Salvation Front], 67.56 percent of electors voted for the president. At the same time about 74 percent of those who took part in the voting were in favor of early elections of deputies.

In the district represented by deputy Ispravnikov [member of the Civic Union], who is now deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, 64 percent of those who took part in the referendum voted in support of the president, while more than 73 percent of voters expressed their lack of confidence in the Congress.

Voters represented by Rybkin [member of the Russian communist party] also gave a majority vote to Yeltsin and did not support the highest legislative body.

A similar picture of massive support for the president and a lack of confidence in the Congress can be seen in districts represented by such well-known opposition activists as [Svetlana] Goryacheva [member of the Russian communist party], Bratishchev, [Boris] Tarasov [member of Fatherland], and [Viktor] Sidorenko [deputy minister of atomic energy]. There's a surprise!

Council of Ministers Presidium Meets 6 May

Discusses Bills on Rent, Companies

LD0605082293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0653 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—The presidium of the Russian Government went on Thursday [6 May] into a meeting to consider bills of the Russian Federation "On Joint-Stock Companies" and "On Changes and Additions to the Law 'On Land Rent'". The meeting is also to discuss an issue of transforming Russia's committee for municipal economy into a state committee for housing facilities and public utilities of the Russian Federation, a draft resolution by the government on the wage fund for the central staff members and certain central bodies of the federal executive authority. Furthermore, the meeting will consider draft provisions on the Russian Press and Information Ministry, Foreign Ministry and Transport Ministry.

Draft Sent to Supreme Soviet

LD0605091893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 6 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today's meeting of the presidium of Russia's Council of Ministers approved a draft law on joint-stock companies and forwarded it to the Russian Supreme Soviet for its consideration.

MVD Approves Militia's Actions

LD0505172593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The collegium of the Russian MVD [Interior Ministry] has approved the actions of the Moscow militia in connection with the incident on May Day. This was announced at a session of the Moscow government by Militia Major General Vladimir Pankratov, head of the main directorate of internal affairs of Moscow.

Official Warns Against Constitutional Commission Meeting

LD0605082993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0803 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov has released the following statement here today:

"A group of people, not vested with corresponding powers, has attempted to call a meeting of the Constitutional Commission, which is chaired by Boris Yeltsin, without the president's consent.

Yeltsin has not delegated to anybody his rights to convene the Constitutional Commission. The desire of separate individuals to convene the Constitutional Commission in circumvention of the president is tantamount to the usurption of presidential powers. Yeltsin does not intend to attend this meeting of the Constitutional Commission, convened with gross violations of the rules and procedures.

In light of this, I am authorised to state that any decisions, interpretations of statements, adopted by the Commission, will be regarded as illegal and unconsequential. Members of the Constitutional Commission, as well as any other persons, attending its unlawful meting, will bear serious moral responsibility."

Yeltsin Aide Kostikov Cited on New Constitution

MK0605090093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 93 pp 1,2

[Interview with Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary for the Russian president, by Aleksandr Nadzharov, published under the general headline "From the Referendum to a New Constitution" under the "Position" rubric; place and date not given: "Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov: Struggle Lies Ahead for a 'Non-Rumyantsev' Draft Basic Law"]

[Text] [Kostikov] When even the first, preliminary results of the referendum were reported, it became absolutely clear that the president—and this is what the majority of analysts and jurists are saying—had acquired a new and very strong legitimacy. At present neither the Supreme Soviet nor the Congress nor the People's Deputies have such legitimacy. In fact, the referendum has revealed and registered the existence of a new Russia, new Russian citizens. Yeltsin is their president.

[Nadzharov] What does that give him in the continuing political struggle?

[Kostikov] Above all, new legitimate and forceful energy which of course needs to be translated into concrete actions in the immediate future.

[Nadzharov] Precisely what sort of actions?

[Kostikov] The main one—and everyone working with the president agrees on this—should be the speedy adoption of a constitution that would finally reflect Russia's realities. No one, perhaps with the exception of the most inveterate conservatives, denies the need for adopting a new fundamental law. The question is how to get things moving a bit faster so as not to drag out the evolution of a new Russian statehood.

[Nadzharov] What in your view is the main result of the referendum, if we ignore for a moment the well known upheavals of the political struggle?

[Kostikov] Actually the referendum has shown that Russia has achieved a new quality. The form of state structure has changed, and the people with their votes have confirmed that they agree with and support the new form of the structure. This condition of Russia only needs to be legalized constitutionally.

[Nadzharov] Can the Supreme Soviet, in principle, do this?

[Kostikov] I think that simply neither it nor the Congress are in a position to adopt a new Constitution. Rather they would do everything possible to push through their own, the so-called Rumyantsev draft constitution, which unfortunately retains a large number of attributes of the defunct Soviet system with elements of a socialist orientation. Of course, this is unacceptable for the new Russia.

[Nadzharov] Then this means a new stage in the political battles...?

[Kostikov] They will flare up, I think, precisely on this front. The Supreme Soviet will most likely be sabotaging the adoption of the Constitution of the new Russian republic, trying to push through its own.

[Nadzharov] What then should we expect from the president?

[Kostikov] At present the president, relying on his new, strengthened legitimacy, is contemplating what measures he can take in order to give Russia a new constitution as soon as possible.

[Nadzharov] What options are being considered in this context?

[Kostikov] They are many, and since the Supreme Soviet and the Congress are incapable of adopting a new constitution, the conclusion suggests itself that a constitutional meeting or assembly should be convened. So, if the president comes up against obvious opposition from the Supreme Soviet, I think an edict on the convocation of such an assembly could be a way out of the situation.

It is my opinion that the president could send a message to the Supreme Soviet presenting his aims and, at this point, his demands for the Supreme Soviet with respect to adopting the new constitution. If there were a sufficient number of sensible politicians in the Supreme Soviet, understanding that following the referendum results, their legitimacy has virtually been nullified, the ideal option would be a movement toward the president's position on the part of the Supreme Soviet. This would make it possible to ensure a perfectly painless and peaceful adoption of the constitution. I am afraid, however, that this will not happen.

[Nadzharov] And what then?

[Kostikov] Most likely, a presidential edict will be issued on the convocation of a constitutional assembly.

[Nadzharov] But immediately a multitude of new problems will arise. For example, how is this constitutional assembly to be formed?

[Kostikov] This is one of the questions on which no final decision has been made yet. There are various options. Who is to be chosen, from what spheres? Supposing the Supreme Soviet agreed with the president's proposal to do things sensibly and gently, I would then not rule out this option: One-third of the constitutional assembly members would be appointed by the president, one-third by the Supreme Soviet, and one-third—but I stress that this is my personal opinion—by the Constitutional Court. This assembly, without a doubt, could pass a new constitution, not being, like the majority of the deputies, personally interested in the preservation of any particular structures.

[Nadzharov] And what are the president's options?

[Kostikov] Presumably, he has his own proposals as to how to replace the quota of the constitutional meeting or assembly which, let us say, the Supreme Soviet refuses to fill. I think, incidentally, that one-third of the delegates to this assembly could be provided by the Federation Council. So, one-third from the president, one-third from the Supreme Soviet, and one-third from the Federation Council.

[Nadzharov] And if the parliament refuses?

[Kostikov] Then a third of the participants in the assembly could, as I said earlier, be supplied by the Constitutional Court.

[Nadzharov] Could you please say whether following increased resistance to the president's actions on the part of the legislative branch one should not expect any extraordinary or even forcible actions from Boris Yeltsin? The deputies have not once expressed such fears, in particular at the sight of snow-clearing and street-cleaning vehicles on the territory of the Kremlin.

[Kostikov] I do not think, of course, that anybody will be giving them the cold water treatment. The president's position has strengthened greatly, and he has enough substantial levers to influence both the Supreme Soviet and the Congress. At the end of the day, in the event of sabotage he can now make his decisions in the form of edicts, which nobody will dare challenge. Because those who try to do so will be acting contrary to the will of the people, more than clearly expressed in the referendum.

People's Labor Union Urges Adoption of New Constitution

LD0505182893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1817 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—The leitmotif of the first official news conference held by the People's Labour Union [PLU] in Moscow today is that power should justify the people's confidence.

The PLU, founded in 1930, is a big political organisation of anti-communist orientation, consisting of Russians living abroad. Until 1987, the headquarters of the union were situated abroad. Chairman of the PLU Executive Committee, Boris Pushkaryev, told ITAR-TASS that the aim of this organisation is to promote the self-establishment of new, solid civil society and overcome the former Soviet heritage.

Opening the news conference, Pushkaryev said that during the April 25 referendum, the Russian people had again confirmed their confidence in the president and the policy of radical reforms. Taking into account the results of the referendum, PLU leaders believe that "attempts to reach a compromise with forces of the past, which for a year and a half have been preventing the birth of a new state and a free economic system, should be resolutely rejected."

During the news conference it was declared that the PLU comes out for urgent adoption of a new Russian Constitution, which, as they believe, will put an end to dual power, which appeared as a result of the conflict between the executive and legislative branches. PLU leaders believe that the constitution should provide for a firm and responsible presidential power, free elections to new representative bodies, the freedom of economic activities and a prospect of "future reunification of the country on a voluntary basis to form a new union state."

Further on Shumeyko's 5 May News Conference

PM0505182593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "V. Shumeyko Does Not Rule Out the Adoption of a New Constitution by Means of Referendum"]

[Text] The new aspects of the Russian Federation Government's economic policy in the light of the results of the referendum—this was the basic idea of the press conference given by First Vice Premier V. Shumeyko 5 May. However, the ensuing talk was wider in theme.

V. Shumeyko began it with an assessment of the tragic events of 1 May. In his words, the organizers of the procession operated professionally, as television pictures of these events attest. The thugs dragged out militia officers from the file one at a time and forced a breach according to the classical scheme. Thus the united opposition had prepared for this provocation thoroughly.

Yesterday, the first vice premier said, R. Khasbulatov gave his own assessment of what happened. He regards the split in society as the main cause of the tragedy; however, the clashes occurred only in Moscow, since nowhere else in Russia has a White House—the headquarters of the united opposition. These forces fear the president's next decisive step—the adoption of a new Constitution—and hence they have begun a series of attacks on the president's policy and the actions of the executive.

Today in Russia we have a dyarchy. We see the sad result. The only way out is to adopt a new Constitution to remove all the chronic problems.

V. Shumeyko also announced that today the Supreme Soviet must examine the question of the possibility of instituting proceedings against deputies for unlawful actions 1 May. If such a decision is not adopted, the vice premier said, the whole machinery of the provocation would be revealed, since the main organizers of the May Day drama were mostly deputies.

Touching on the government's economic policy for the forthcoming period, V. Shuymeyko stressed that it will include the suppression of inflation through a tough financial and credit policy. A special commission is operating under the leadership of B. Fedorov and will not issue any credits whatever to an enterprise until it provides a convincing program and a mechanism for repaying the money.

V. Shumeyko went on to list such measures as the creation of equal conditions for the mixed economy and giving substance to the Federation Treaty by concluding agreements between the Russian Federation and the territories. Such agreements have already come into force with Buryatia and the Kuban and are producing good results.

Concerning the possible return to the government of reformers who have left, in particular, Ye. Gaydar, the first vice premier said that a conversation is to be held in the near future between V. Chernomyrdin and Ye. Gaydar. The possibility of the latter returning to the government will be discussed, but V. Shumeyko expressed the opinion that you cannot go twice into the same river.

Journalists were informed about the distribution of responsibilities among the three first vice premiers within the government. V. Shumeyko will be responsible for political questions, O. Lobov for economic questions, and O. Soskovets for the day-to-day running of the economy.

V. Shumeyko has been entrusted with cadres policy in the government. He stated that today there are around 580 people working in the government apparatus, and these include committed antireformers. If incidents come to light of their bringing ideology to their work, we will get rid of these people, V. Shumeyko said. Then we will tackle the ministries and state committees.

Asked by journalists what lies behind the stance of Vice President Rutskoy, the first vice premier said that A. Rutskoy uses his post to create a political image. He had been entrusted with carrying out agrarian reform, but all that he had done was to put out a book. Then he was entrusted with the crucial job of combating crime and corruption. He collected 11 suitcases of material and made a sensational report. With this his activity to fulfill the separate assignments of the president ended. I am sure, V. Shumeyko said, that nothing new will be discovered in the documents he compiled.

Concerning the adoption of the new Constitution, the first vice premier said that the next Congress of People's Deputies will probably attempt to revise the results of the referendum, and naturally to impose its own scenario for the adoption of the Constitution, but it should be remembered that the deputies lost in 83 of the 88 territories and received fewer votes than in their own elections. Whereas the president received more votes with the exception of six territories. Therefore the deputies are no longer legitimate. The actions of the president, who relies on the will of the people, will ensure the adoption of the new Constituiton after coordinating its text with components of the Federation. V. Shumeyko avoided a direct answer to the question of the possible mechanism for adopting the Constitution, but did not rule out the possibility of adopting it by means of a nationwide referendum.

Blames Deputies for Violence

LD0505154993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 5 May 93

[Report by correspondent L. Panova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Panova] The May Day events in Moscow were a premeditated action by forces of the united opposition which, having lost the referendum, are fearful of the next move by the president, the only one ever to have been lawfully elected in Russia—namely, the adoption of the new constitution. Journalists were told this today by Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, at a regular briefing for journalists held at Staraya Ploshchad [former CPSU Central Committee headquarters] in Moscow. The provocative nature of the May Day events is illustrated by the fact that nothing similar happened outside Moscow, Vladimir Shumeyko noted. Moscow is the only place in Russia with a White House, he added.

[Begin recording] [Shumeyko] The ringleaders should be the first to feel the lash of the whip, as they used to say in Russia. As you know, the principal instigators were deputies, either Russian people's deputies or deputies of the Moscow Soviet. The Supreme Soviet is meeting today. It will examine the question of lifting the immunity of deputies or, so to speak, the possibility of instituting criminal proceedings against deputies under Article 97, for organizing large-scale disorders. Whether the ringleaders are deprived of their mandates as deputies or not, everything will be sorted out in the end. [end recording]

[Panova] Dyarchy prevails in Russia at the moment, Vladimir Shumeyko stressed, in the form of an executive branch headed by the president and a legislative branch embodied by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. This dyarchy is bound to cause a clash, the first deputy prime minister believes.

Shokhin on Possible Return of Gaydar to Cabinet

LD0505163693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin does not rule out the possibility that Yegor Gaydar might return to the Russian Government.

At a news conference held here today, Shokhin expressed the opinion that Gaydar might become a minister without a portfolio in charge of the Russian financial policy.

At the same time Shokhin pointed out that he does not consider it possible to seriously discuss cabinet reshuffling until the president and the prime minister have their say on the matter. Commenting on statements to this effect, made by Mikhail Poltoranin and Sergey Yushenkov, Shokhin said that he "does not like cabinet reshuffling being discussed by the head of the Federal Information Centre and his deputy."

At the same time Shokhin voiced the opinion that it is necessary to introduce in the government the post of the first deputy premier on social policy. "The importance of social problems demands concentration of corresponding powers with one of the first vice-premiers," Shokhin said.

Democrats Ask President To Form New Government

MK0505112093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 5 May 93 p 1

[Elina Nikolayeva report: "One Good Turn Deserves Another. The Edict on Khizha's Resignation Has Already Been Signed!"]

[Text] The Unified Committee of Democratic Organizations of Russia that supported Yeltsin in the referendum has now laid down a package of its demands to the president aimed at the realization of the electorate's will. In particular, these include an urgent request to form a substantially new government—to reinstate Gaydar, to fire Rutskoy, Lobov, Kvasov, and Ministers Yefimov and Glukhikh.

The Democrats have long been unhappy with Vice Premier Khizha, who is at the moment in charge of practical guidance of the state-run sector of the economy. To remove him from the government is one of their oldest demands.

"True, one should not go too far. We realize that everything should be within sensible limits," one well-known democrat admitted in a private discussion. "But it would be a good idea to remove all the 'power' ministers."

Yeltsin is rumored to have begun reshuffling the government without waiting for formal demands. The first man he intends to dismiss is Khizha. Sources close to the president's apparatus say that an order on this score has been already signed, but has not yet left the president's office. As is known, presidential documents are valid after they have been released. Government apparatus head Kvasov, for example, is supposed to be replaced with Andrey Sebentsov (once a people's deputy, an active member of the commission on legislation.) Members of the apparatus and his colleagues think Andrey Sebentsov is an honest person, the least politically engaged of all the nomenklatura comrades.

Head of the apparatus is one of the key offices in the government, and the democrats realize this very well. If the issue is to change the course of the government in the wake of the referendum, it is then also clear that Gaydar should be in and Gerashchenko out of the government.

Yeltsin Edict on Government Working Bodies

PM0505111393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 May 93 p 6

[Edict No. 564 of the Russian Federation president "On the Working Bodies of the Russian Federation Council

of Ministers-Government," dated 26 April 1993, the Kremlin, Moscow and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] On the basis of Article 29 of the Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government" I decree that:

1. The Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government independently decides matters relating to personnel changes, work procedure, reorganization, and abolition of government commissions and other working bodies under the Russian Federation Government formed by edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president.

2. The Russian Federation president's State Legal Administration introduces, when necessary, proposals on the invalidation of acts of the Russian Federation president issued on questions of the establishment, composition, and work procedure of government commissions and other working bodies under the Russian Federation Government.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 26 April 1993

Official Seeks Detention of Lukyanov, Kryuchkov

LD0505170893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Acting Procurator General Vladimir Slovogorodskiy has signed a request to the Supreme Court to change the restraining orders with regard to the State Committee for the State of Emergency members Anatoliy Lukyanov and Vladimir Kryuchkov, and to detain them in custody following their active participation in the political events on 1 May in Moscow. Gleb Yakunin, one of the leaders of the parliamentary Reforms Coalition, has told this to an RIA correspondent.

ANCOM-TASS International Press Agency Set Up

LD0505160993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1323 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—The ANCOM-TASS international agency has been set up with participation of the Russian Telegraph Agency. The name of the new organization means "Analysis" and "Commentary".

"Our agency is a quick action outfit. Our motto is 'today's fact - today's commentary'", said agency President Tomas Kolesnichenko.

ANCOM-TASS is a commercial organization, which is not part of Russian governmental structures. Thus, it will be fully objective and independent. The agency will offer a new service of "confidential letters" to contain on clients' order exclusive information, analysis and forecasts on the most topical political, economic and diplomatic issues.

The agency employs political scientists, academicians and political writers.

Military & Economic Issues

Internationalist Servicemen Conference Held 5 May

Grachev, Gromov Address Conference

PM0505191993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 May 93 pp 1, 3

[Report by Vasiliy Fatigarov and Anatoliy Stasovskiy: "Mobilize the Combat and Life Experience of Afghan Veterans for Military Reform"]

[Text] On 5 May the first all-Army conference-meeting of internationalist servicemen was held in the Russian Army's Central Club. It was attended by more than 500 representatives of all branches of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, military districts, groups of forces, fleets, and military training establishments and institutions.

Taking part in the conference's work were Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, members of the Ministry of Defense Collegium, and leaders and representatives of Russian Federation Supreme Soviet committees and commissions, and representatives of the Russian president and the country's government and social organizations.

The introductory speech at the meeting was delivered by Russian Defense Minister Army Gen. Pavel Grachev.

In all, our military have fulfilled their international duty in more than 50 "trouble spots" on the planet, Pavel Grachev stressed. Most of them have traveled the fiery roads of Afghanistan. Today's assessment of those events is well known, the Russian Federation defense minister said, but, no matter how society qualifies the "Afghan" war, no one has the right to cast aspersions on the servicemen, or to describe those who went through Afghanistan as a lost generation, and the "Afghan" servicemen themselves as victims. The military must not and cannot be answerable for the immorality of politicians or their mistakes. One thing is clear: The internationalist servicemen were in this war soldiers who in their overwhelming majority displayed true courage and heroism, not sparing themselves and honorably fulfilling their military duty.

I believe, Army Gen. Grachev noted, that it is blasphemous to indulge in name-calling today and to try to discredit also those servicemen who are fulfilling their military duty with such self-denial and courage in Tajikistan, Moldova, Abkhazia, North Ossetia, Ingushetia... But there are such attempts.

Today, the Russian defense minister continued, in the context of the socioeconomic crisis and the severe exacerbation of political confrontation in the country, we need healthy forces that will unite and revive Russia and society like we need the air that we breathe; we need true patriots, people sound of thought and strong in spirit, of whom there are many among the miltary, among those who have fulfilled and are fulfilling their international duty.

The current conference-meeting with internationalist servicemen is important in many factors. First, we need to elaborate together measures to consolidate the efforts of organizations of internationalist servicemen, the Armed Forces, and social organizations in order to perform tasks of military reform. Second, we need to determine the main avenues of the work of internationalist servicemen's organizations in providing help to commanders and staffs in questions of organizing and stepping up military-patriotic work in the Armed Forces and in work with young people.

The Russian Federation defense minister linked these tasks with three highly important problems within the context of reforming the Army and Navy: the transition to a new organizational and staffing structure in the troops; the reequipment of the Armed Forces with the latest weapons and technology; and training Russian professional soldiers capable of worthily defending Russia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The difficulty lies in the fact that these large-scale tasks have to be carried out in parallel with the withdrawal of troops to Russian territory and the reduction of the Armed Forces. The withdrawal of troops is proceeding significantly faster than the provision of facilities for them at local level. This poses very complex socioeconomic problems. The resolution of the problem of reducing the Armed Forces, which affects the lives of many hundreds of thousands of servicemen and their families, is also very complex. In the existing situation, the defense minister noted, the most important thing for us is the fate of every serviceman—soldier, officer, and general.

Army Gen. Grachev made special mention of the problem of the Army's manpower acquisition. The situation as regards the draft is almost catastrophic, he noted. A concept such as the constitutional duty to defend the state that was sacred for many generations has in effect turned into an empty sound. Never has such a shameful phenomenon as draft dodging been so widespread.

At the same time, the Russian Federation defense minister said, the system of military-patriotic education is essentially not working. Russia's age-old national traditions, whereby service to the Fatherland in the ranks of its armed defenders was always considered a sacred task, are crumbling; the threads of continuity between generations are being broken. The internationalist servicemen, who picked up the combat baton of heroic traditions from the front-line soldiers of the Great Patriotic War, must do everything to preserve these glorious traditions and the moral and ethical potential built up by them and pass it on to the rising generation.

A peculiarity of the present conference, Army General Grachev stressed, lies in the fact that is being held at a difficult time for the country. The battle between supporters and opponents of the course of reform has intensified. The recent events stained with people's blood are fresh in everyone's memory. In these conditions, the minister said, as I have already repeatedly stated, it is impermissible for the Armed Forces to be dragged into political disputes. The political struggle must be conducted strictly within constitutional bounds, within the bounds of the law, without any reliance whatever by the various political parties, currents, and factions on the power structures, above all the Army. I consider it essential to state this yet again, the Russian defense minister said, in the name of those who took part in combat operations in Afghanistan and who learned what the political actions of some figures, some leaders, cost the people. The Army must remain a force acting as the guarantor of the preservation of Russian statehood and stability in society. Otherwise it is difficult to talk about continuing reforms in society, or indeed in the Army itself.

Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Boris Gromov delivered a report at the conference. In particular, he noted that internationalist servicemen are precious assets of our Armed Forces.

But, Col. Gen. Gromov stressed, the wounds left on society's body by the "Afghan" war have still not healed. Some 620,000 soldiers and officers performed military service in Afghanistan, of whom 546,000 took part in combat operations—525,000 of them from the limited contingent of former Soviet troops, around 90,000 from the Border Troops and other KGB subunits, and around 5,000 from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Boris Gromov highlighted several directions in the multifaceted internationalist servicemen's movement. There are organizations engaging in commercial activity and channeling funds into aiding "Afghans" and the families of the dead, entrepreneurial structures of "Afghan" war invalids, charitable and rehabilitation funds and associations, and organizations attaching paramount importance to patriotic work...

A group on internationalist servicemen's affairs was set up under the deputy defense minister in the fall of last year. This, Boris Gromov said, has made it possible to determine the situation, to resolve many questions, and to elaborate the draft Russian Federation law "On the Status of Participants in the Combat Operations in Afghanistan and Other States," which is today being examined in state structures.

Col. Gen Gromov went on to cite some curious statistics. In particular, he said that over 260,000 citizens who performed international duty in Afghanistan and other

states where combat operations were conducted today live in Russia. Some 30,000 of them are continuing to serve in the Russian Federation Armed Froces. Precisely 3,640 men are serving at the platoon-battalion level, 511 have command posts in regiments and divisions, and 20 hold leadership posts in armies and districts. And 2,992 warrant officers are serving in the posts of officers. The "Afghans" include 14,885 senior officers (more than 8,000 having the rank of major) and 8,000 junior officers. Over 200 internationalist servicemen have become generals.

Col. Gen. Boris Gromov noted that they are the backbone of the new professional army. And the main task today is to base troop training on their combat experience.

The participants in the All-Army Conference of Internationalist Servicemen adopted an appeal to Russian Armed Forces personnel. It contains a call not to fall for the provocations of bellicose politicos and extremists, to strengthen friendship and military comradeliness, and honestly and selflessly to perform their constitutional duty.

Our experience of combat and life, the appeal says, must become the property of the present defenders of the motherland and be widely employed in the everyday practice of instructing and training servicemen and in the preparation of young people for military service.

It is a most important task of internationalist servicemen to ensure the reliable defense of Russia and its stability and territorial integrity, the appeal notes. The participants in the all-army conference called on Russian Armed Forces personnel to enhance the level of combat readiness of formations and units, to strengthen military discipline, and vigilantly and reliably to protect the people's peaceful labor.

After Col. Gen. Boris Gromov's report, participants in the conference spoke on the questions raised in it. In the evening masters of arts held a concert for the internationalist servicemen.

Conference Appeals to Armed Forces

LD0505165493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1536 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Ostanin and Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—Participants in an Army meeting of servicemen-internationalists (who were on combat missions beyond the borders of the former Soviet Union) have launched an appeal to the Russian armed forces personnel. The document specifically says that "the Army finding itself as it does in an extremely difficult and complex situation, will nonetheless play its exceptionally important role as an internal stabilising force. The armed forces carry with them the hopes of millions of people of Russia that anarchy and lawlessness, a slide towards a civil war in a country possessing nuclear weapons, will not be allowed." The motion also contains an appeal to the armed forces personnel not to succumb to provocations of political schemers and extremists, but strengthen friendship and military comradeship, fulfil their constitutional duty honestly and selflessly.

The most important task of servicemen-internationalists is to ensure the reliable defense of Russia, its stability and territorial integrity, the appeal stresses.

Yeltsin Hails 'Reliable Protection' of Kremlin Regiment

LD0605094493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 6 May 93

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—An inspection of the presidential regiment of the Moscow Kremlin commandant's office took place today on the Kremlin Cathedral Square, according to the press service of the Russian president.

The regiment was reorganised in compliance with the presidential decree of March 20 with the aim of raising the prestige of the military service in the official residence of the Russian president.

"Throughout the centuries outstanding material and spiritual values have been created by our ancestors. Our duty is to breath new life into these rich traditions, to provide a worthy life to all citizens of our great country. I do not doubt that the Moscow Kremlin, a sacred place for Russia is under reliable protection", the Russian president said in an address to the staff of the regiment.

Western Advice Not Right for National Economy

MK0505101693 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No 49, 4 May 93 p 1 (signed to press 3 May)

[Report by Petr Karpov, Supreme Economic Council deputy chairman: "Russia and Reforms: Tragedy or Agony?"]

[Text] We have never really liked the way we lived. Especially recently. The desire to restructure the country has grown more intense.

Remaking the country is a technical matter. Take, for example, the United States as a model and let's build roads, farms, plants, and factories like what they have there, the same abundance of private houses, restaurants, stores, and so forth. Why, formerly, did we build something different? Because it is the state that was doing the building here, while they had resourceful private entrepreneurs. They have a market and rules of the game that give a strong incentive to shape the course

of life. Whereas here, for all our riches, the requisite material, as they say, is at hand, but the rules are different.

Hence, the main idea behind reform in Russia—to change the rules of the game, to build a market, and to trigger a transition to private enterprise. Hence, a program. First, producers should be given as many rights as possible as well as conditions so that their initiative can unfold. Second, the state management of economic activity via state planning and distribution committees should be abolished—let the economy take its own course. Third, the state should get rid of the burdensome duty of tending to its property—let this be the task of energetic business people.

It is also from this concept that a yardstick for measuring the initial success of reform can be derived: The more incentive an individual has for influencing his course, the more evidence we have that the country is on the right track.

So, reform has begun.... Life, however, is not getting any closer to what they have in America. And the more woeful it gets, the deeper the conviction that the enemies of reform or saboteurs have become entrenched everywhere. As if not content with not letting us build roads and restaurants like they have in the States, they are destroying the old Russian economy as well!

Knowing that the basic popular needs boil down to simple products such as foodstuffs, clothing, footwear, detergent, and so on, the enemies have chosen this particular area to deliver a decisive blow.

This is what the statistics say: The downturn in industrial production in the first quarter of 1993 compared with the first quarter of 1989:

—61 percent in dairy products;
—53 percent in meat products;
—60 percent in textiles;
—59 percent in footwear;
—36 percent in detergents.

What is hidden behind these horrible figures? A crisis, a catastrophe, or even the agony of a nation of 150 million people? And will there ever be an end to the economy's drift to absolute zero?

Why is it that things are evolving this way? We take recipes tested throughout the world, start feeding our economic horse according to them, but instead of feeling better it is losing flesh right before our eyes and is plowing 60 percent less. The food is good, but the horse is getting even skinnier. Maybe the food is not right for the horse, as our ancestors used to say, and there is no need to blame imaginary enemies?

Furthermore, one must look at the horses too: For all the apparent likeness, horseshoes, manes and all, ours are nonetheless different horses from the foreign, market-oriented horses.

This is what we do not realize. Foreign advisers do not see this, either. And this is where the tragedy of Russian reform lies.

During my foreign trips in the past few years I have thoroughly studied over 50 enterprises and probably the same number of farms. What I saw was that the only thing they have in common with ours is roofs, doors, and windows. All the rest is completely different.

They have built their economies century after century on the basis of small enterprises employing several people. A total of 40 people for them is a full-blown factory, 800 people make a large firm, and 2,500 people a very large one. Each of the factories or firms is interlinked with numerous small enterprises. And all of them—small and large alike—are independent, robust, and flexible.

For us, however, 2,500 people is a medium-sized plant, 800 people a workshop, and 40 people a subdivision.

Their production lines are sleek thoroughbreds, whereas ours are massive draft horses pulling heavy wagons.

A century-old competition has made them light-limbed, graceful, and spirited, and our elephant-like manners are a product of Stalinist ideas and constructions. The father of the peoples managed to rebuild the country in accordance with his rules, and, however his successor may try to deny it, the construction continued on the groundwork he had laid. Stalin liked to work big. He did not like the smallish economy and strangled whatever he had inherited from it, while erecting giants as if by piecework. One or two, at best a few plants for the whole country.

Such a network of large plants was easily manageable from Moscow. Furthermore, this system was in a way efficient and delivered the goods. But it was a Stalinist system, as it were, and once alien elements were added to it, no trace of its efficiency was left.

The plants were grumbling that they were managed from far away. They started asserting that they, on site, know best and were given all the rights, but it turned out that the food was not right for the horse. How many years will it take our draft horses to turn into thoroughbreds? Very hard to say. But definitely not one year and not even five...

Our most serious mistake was that we hoped to correct the course of life by changing the rules of the game. We tried to change the rules and the system fell apart. The reason is that it had been formed according to the old rules. We longed to move faster, but ran into inflation, which has brought construction to a standstill. The old is in shambles, but no new construction is under way.

Where is there a way out, or is there any?

The only way out is to work hard building new constructions, not inside the falling ones, but next to them. In addition, we must have rules that will impel all energetic people to build new plants and restaurants, and not

dividing the old ones, seeking profits in production and not in trade of dwindling reserves.

Therefore, first: We need to realize that no single people in history has had an economic organization similar to what had been built by Stalin. Hence, any foreign advice will miss the realities of our life.

Second: It is essential that we wake up to the fact that our system resembles a market economy only in appearance. We will not make it a market system by changing names, owners, carpets, and secretaries. If we aim at market yardsticks, we have to acknowledge openly that 80 percent of our material base is simply unfit for a market. For instance, if we are thinking about turning Russia into a country of private farms, everything built on the basis of collective and state farms is historically doomed to failure.

Hence, it is logically clear that the main thing is not to rebuild the old, but to build the new, which is known to be cheaper. We should give a private owner money and, instead of trying to fit him into the old system, let him work along parallel lines with it.

The most important thing now is to save our economic life, keeping in mind the products society needs, and not to squeeze the moribund economy into a system of abstract rules.

The time of theories has passed. Children have already been conceived who may never see milk and who may be swaddled in old shirts. At present we have to save specific things—textiles, footwear, milk, and so forth—resorting to any means available for the sake of saving them.

Finance Ministry's Plan To Sell Gold Criticized

MK0505122293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 93 p 4

[Sergey Paliy article published in "Money" rubric: "Finance Ministry in Anticipation of Problems, and Why It Needs Gold So Badly"]

[Text] As soon as an appreciable amount of gold appeared in the vaults of the Central Bank and the State Repository, proposals began to be made to get rid of it.

Unlike the Central Bank chairman, the new finance minister has to justify his appointment with results, as it were—in other words, act not rationally but expediently. This resulted in a statement to the effect that it is more advisable to get rid of our gold, as it is just lying idle. For some reason, however, he did not mention the fact that the United States is hoarding 8,000 tonnes of gold.

According to official data, the Russian Federation's gold reserve amounted to a mere 308 tonnes. Gathered by the crumb, it serves as a state reserve for extreme contingencies.

It is noteworthy that such small states as Belgium and the Netherlands in 1992 sold 202 and 400 tonnes of gold respectively. But these are developed countries with stable economies. The Netherlands, for instance, had a gold reserve of 1,600 tonnes. There is no way we can match that!

I would like to point out that in Western countries indeed there is a trend toward reducing large (from their point of view) gold reserves, since they bring no income, but they have thousands of tonnes, and we a mere 300. This is so little that it will be barely enough to obtain a large credit or to sell in the event of a calamity, a catastrophe of the Chernobyl kind. Apparently once again foreign yardsticks are being applied to our economy, which is being cut to the quick....

To be sure, the state has the right to administer the resources that it has. No highly placed official, however, has the right to dispense with the state gold reserve, moreover without permission from the Central Bank. Obviously, the sale of gold from the state reserve will substantially undermine Russia's credit-worthiness.

Nonetheless, B. Fedorov is proposing that gold be sold for rubles. After learning that the technical capacities of the Gosznak state mint factories are not limitless, he seems to be dreaming about resorting to any unconventional measures. Repeated increases of pensions, including for the rich, followed by increases in wages, student grants, and allowances have led to greater monetary emission rates, at a level of 1 trillion rubles a month. No sale of gold will be able to salvage the situation. Against this backdrop it is quite natural that the Central Bank is trying to preserve Russian enterprises and restrain the prices for domestic goods and foodstuffs by means of a kind of "band-aid"—an artificially lowered ruble rate. It is irrational to exchange the precious metal for nonconvertible ruble papers which are called money by oversight. Perhaps it would be better to sell several tonnes of gold in the world market and use the hard-currency proceeds to build a new money printing factory? Surely, in the context of galloping inflation this is better than actually to give the gold reserve away to corrupt officials and brazen racketeers.

Of course, gold coins must not lie for ever. But if B. Fedorov is calling for the sale of 400 billion rubles worth of gold, why should he not demonstrate his ingenuity and sell the precious metal for hard currency? Then we would be able to create a state-of-the-art banking infrastructure and introduce electronic money. Western banking technology in exchange for Russian gold in this case is probably a well-justified course.

It is also important to highlight a total breakdown of all hard- currency regulations in the country. The volume of foreign exchange on hand held by the populace in Moscow alone is estimated at $2 to $3 billion. Since fiscal measures are not working, would it not be reasonable to start selling small gold ingots and gold and diamond jewelry solely for hard currency? Then Russia

will stop destabilizing the world precious metals market since it will be able to get additional hard currency with its own "internal" resources. And to preserve the domestic jewelry industry an additional customs tariff could be imposed on the import of precious metals and precious metal items.

This action will not directly affect the prices for other goods. Moreover, there will be no outflow of gold; it will all remain in the country, the only difference being that it will not be sold for empty rubles. In fact gold will become—as it has already become in Western countries—just another consumer product like, for instance, a man's suit. Therefore the speculator and the bribe- taker will buy expensive diamond earrings while the average wage earner, in accordance with his means, will buy a more modest ring. Such is the market: after all, stratification of the population according to income is not just growing, it is growing dramatically. And would it not be reasonable for our treasury to bridle the golden calf?...

Status of Spring Sowing Campaign Reviewed

PM0505160593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 93 First Edition p 1

[Valeriy Konovalov report: "Area Sown to Grain Crops in Russia This Spring Will Be 1 Million Hectares Up on Last Year"]

[Text] The spring sowing campaign in southern Russia and the Central Chernozem Zone is nearing completion, but is only just beginning in Siberia. It is already clear that the area sown to grain crops this year will be 1 million hectares greater than last year. The crop structure is changing significantly.

Once again springtime proved difficult for the peasants this year. Prolonged cold spells delayed the start of the sowing campaign in many regions. However, so far no region has missed the best sowing time, and all that is needed now is to work more intensely than usual in order to stay on schedule. Perhaps the most critical situation prevails in the Lower Volga Valley—rainfall here is incessant, and the best time for the sowing campaign is already running out. Cloudbursts have seriously complicated the grain crop farmers' work in the Northern Caucasus too. However, there has been some success in making up for lost time and rectifying the situation here, and only maize sowing is noticeably lagging behind the normal schedule.

The sowing campaign's traditional problem with fuel and lubricants has generally been resolved this year. According to data from the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, farms in all regions have been supplied with fuel to carry out the sowing campaign.

The main problem during this year's sowing campaign concerns fertilizers and chemical plant protection agents. They are in short supply everywhere and this shortage is intensely felt. The problem is not that fertilizers cannot be purchased, but that they are too expensive for the peasants. The government tried to compensate for part of this expenditure by assuming one-third of it itself. But such was the delay in allocating state funds for these purposes that, given the current rate of inflation, peasants grew wary and did not rush to acquire the fertilizers. Now the money has finally reached the countryside, and the demand for fertilizer has shot up instantaneously. The government has even suspended the export of fertilizers until the sowing campaign ends in order to satisfy the peasants' requirements as far as possible. However, complications have now arisen in dispatching and transporting fertilizers from enterprises to the countryside, insofar as urgent orders from various regions have all come at once.

It is still too early to talk about the results of the sowing campaign. But general trends have already emerged. Above all, this concerns the change in the structure of cultivated areas. A significant increase in soybean sowing in southern Russia, particularly in Krasnodar Kray, is encouraging. Many hopes are being pinned now on this crop to solve the grain problem, as the use of soybean in feed production will make it possible to radically improve the balance of animal feed and cut grain imports in the process.

By contrast, it is obvious that fewer vegetables and potatoes will be sown than last year. Actually, the potato situation is normal: After all, last year's potato production was significantly greater than required, and large quantities were left unsold. The situation with vegetables is worse. The main suppliers—Astrakhan and Volgograd Oblasts—are cutting sowings. All hopes lie with the private sector.

Experts at the Ministry of Agriculture are alarmed by the situation with maize. The main problem is the shortage of seeds. These seeds were traditionally supplied by republics in the North Caucasus, but this year, owing to political complications, production has been cut sharply, so the area sown to maize in Russia, unfortunately, is contracting.

On the other hand, the area sown to peas and lupines is increasing in central oblasts of Russia. And the area sown to grain crops this spring will be 1 million hectares up on last year. According to expert forecasts, the grain crop harvest may come to over 105 million tonnes this year, which is higher than the average level in recent years.

Supreme Soviet

Investigating Commission Meets To Discuss May Day

PM0605093593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 93 First Edition p 2

[Parliamentary Press Center report under the rubric "Echo of Gagarin Square": "Deputies Begin Investigation"]

[Text] A working session of the deputies' commission on investigating the causes and circumstances of the use of force against a peaceful demonstration on 1 May, a Russian Federation public holiday, was held 4 May in the House of Soviets. This commission was set up on the evening of 1 May under a directive from Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov. It includes deputies from the Russian Supreme Soviet, Moscow City Soviet, and the capital's rayon soviets. The commission is headed by Russian People's Deputy G.M. Benov. Representatives of the capital's militia and medical service as well as people who attended the demonstration were present at the session.

G.M. Benov briefed those attending the meeting on the situation which came about as a result of the clash between demonstrators and the militia in the vicinity of Gagarin Square. The speaker noted that the mass media are not giving an objective reflection of what happened, they are distorting the facts and occasionally making unfounded political, legal, and moral assessments of the conflict that arose.

V.D. Kisilev, deputy chief of Moscow's Internal Affairs Main Administration, noted in his speech that the clash of 1 May occurred as a result of the aggressive actions of the demonstrators who attempted to break through the barriers erected by the militia on Leninskiy Prospekt. He resolutely rejected the claim that the clash between the militia and the demonstrators was planned in advance. According to him, militia vehicles and detachments were transferred to Leninskiy Prospekt only after the demonstrators, urged on by their leaders, started to move from Kaluga (Oktyabrskaya) Square in the direction of Sparrow Hills.

Russian People's Deputy I.V. Konstantinov, who took part in the rally and demonstration 1 May, stated his willingness to provide testimony in connection with the incident that arose.

Officers Union Chairman Ye. M. Chernobrivko, who also took part in the demonstration, expressed the hypothesis that the clash which took place was meticulously planned and urged the commission to hold an objective investigation into who actually broke the law and violated the Constitution.

According to information from Russian People's Deputy A.N. Solovyev, chief of Moscow's Main Medical Administration, 579 injured people were referred for medical attention to various medical institutions in Moscow as a result of the 1 May incident. Of these, 251 were officers of law-enforcement organs. A total of 40 people were hospitalized of whom 27 were militiamen and Special-Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON] personnel.

Draft Statement Prepared

LD0505165593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium has prepared a draft statement in connection with the events on 1 May in Moscow. It will be presented to parliament tomorrow.

According to Yuriy Nesterov, coordinator of the Consensus for the Sake of Progress [Soglasiye Radi Progressa] faction, on the whole the contents are in keeping with Ruslan Khasbulatov's address on Russian Television yesterday. The parliament's democratic wing plans to prepare an alternative text of the document.

Presidium Meets 5 May To Discuss May Day Events

Khasbulatov: Riots Result of Referendum

LD0505153093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 5 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The May Day events in Moscow were discussed today at a session of the Presidium of the Russian Parliament. Ruslan Khasbulatov made a five-minute assessment of the events.

[Khasbulatov] I am no supporter of those who try to somehow present this as some kind of small incident, to try to somehow evade a really serious political analysis and close linkage with the overall political development in the country and with the stimulation of tension in our society which is being direcly carried out by some representatives of the supreme executive power in the country. If one stops to think and consider what is happening no doubt one would have seen that his own destruction lies no so far from there. One must not set one part of the population against another part. Such an event must not be repeated in the next few days on 9 May. It is not without reason that we say that no good would come of this referendum. Why? Because it was planned with ill intent. This is the first result. Just now, people are continually phoning the reception office to ask the following questions: What kind of society are we building; what sort of radical democrats are these, and what do they want to build here in this country—a concentration camp?

Moscow Mayor Luzhkov Address

LD0605143493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1018 GMT 6 May 93

[Speech by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, with interjections by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, at a Russian Supreme Soviet session at the White House in Moscow—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Luzhkov] ...in 1992 the trend to hold unsanctioned rallies and demonstrations already surfaced. Of

the entire number of events that were held, more than 30 percent were unsanctioned. In 1993, the statistics are as follows: All in all, 185 various events took place. Of these, 110 were sanctioned and 75 were not. In other words, the proportion of unscheduled and unsanctioned events violating decisions by city authorities has almost doubled. In recent months and days, political tension has been increasing, and has become dangerous not only from a legal point of view but also because it is putting people's lives and health at risk. In 1993, major events took place on 23 February 1993, during the Congress from 10-15 March, and on 28 March. Later, in April, the number of various rallies and demonstrations went up sharply. In particular, rallies took place on 11, 17, 21, and 23 April. I stress that the 23 April demonstrations involved for the first time clashes and a crowd trying to break through the militia cordon near Pushkin Square.

Eighteen times in the course of 1993 there have been transport suspensions and restrictions. Eleven times the situation has been on the verge of clashes with members of the militia and only the self-possession of the militiamen prevented it from leading to loss of life or serious bloodshed.

How were the preparations for 1 May carried out? I will not give a detailed assessment of all the details of the preparatory process, the discussions, the contacts with the applicants. I will only say that of the three groups that declared a wish to hold rallies and demonstrations, agreement was reached with two—the Liberal Democratic Party and the trade unions. But the third group—they were a number of communist organizations—at the preparatory stage behaved in a provocative way and made an incontestable declaration of their decision to hold a rally on Red Square. Despite the mayor's decision of 25 April 1993, the representatives of these groups, at a conference on 29 April, at which the gathering place and the route were announced, demonstratively left the assembly hall and refused to even accept the decision that had been adopted on that demonstration. Thus, neither before the demonstration nor during the unsanctioned procession to Leninskiy Prospekt did the organizers make any contact with the authorities. The desire of the demonstrators and their leaders to embark on a provocation, to unleash bloody conflict, was already shown by their actions at the preparatory stage for this action.

What was the decision of the mayor's office regarding this demonstration? The instruction of 25 April mentioned the gathering place on October Square and the procession along Krymskiy Val to the Central Exhibition Hall and the holding of a rally there.

I stress that decisions being made relating to different public events are being analyzed by the city procuracy immediately. We have not received any reprimands or protests from the procuracy connected with our decision, since it was a lawful one. More importantly, if the organizers of the event did not agree with the mayor's decision, they were quite within their rights and had every opportunity to protest to the Moscow and Russian procuracies. They did not do this; they found this unnecessary. It was not, and is not, part of the plan of those who act illegally and who are bent on provocation. Any decision by the procuracy would tie their hands.

Mr. Gennadiy Zyuganov [prominent Communist leader] said in an interview with one of the papers that they could not follow the route agreed with the mayor's office toward the Central Exhibition Hall. They said the way was blocked; this is a lie. In the direction of Krimskiy Val there was nothing blocking the march to the Central Exhibition Hall. The clashes....[pauses] the demonstrators moved along a route that they had not announced, toward Leninskiy Prospekt, with the intention of moving to the other main roads to carry out their decision to head for Red Square where they would hold a meeting. In the area of the 37th block on Kaluga—near Gagarin Square—a chain of militiamen and vehicles was formed. While the march was in progress, about five rows of demonstrators moved some 60-100 meters away from the main body of the crowd and charged at the militiamen without stopping, ignoring the militia's warnings.

As I have already said, this advancing line of thugs was separated by quite some distance from the main demonstration. All suggestions that they could not stop, that they were pushed from behind by certain forces—demonstrators or vehicles—are also untrue. The attackers had every opportunity to stop, to enter into talks with the militia. But that was not part of their plan. They received a different command. Up until the point when the Special Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON] officer was crushed and vehicles started to go up in flames, neither the militia nor the OMON actively intervened.

I would like to comment on what Ruslan Imranovich [Khasbulatov] had to say here about the commission. The establishment of commissions now tends to provoke those who are already acting illegally. After the events of 23 February 1992, a commission was established to assess the extent to which the actions of the city authorities were lawful and the extent to which the actions of the demonstrators were unlawful. Even now we do not know what the commission's findings were. However, the very act of setting up this commission provoked the demonstrators into escalating the nature of their subsequent behavior.

In December, a commission dealing with a case of Deputy Golishnikov was also set up. We do not know the results. A number of other commissions have been set up as well. This, in essence, provoked those who commit unlawful actions to be more active. I would like you, in this connection, to pay attention to decisions that are being made and that are directly or indirectly supporting unlawful actions. The mayor's office acted in accordance with the law and we are sure that it was so. The court can evaluate the actions of provocateurs and the authorities. I believe this time the court will do so. It did not do

anything in all previous situations and it did not investigate a scandal that took place on 9 May either when Communists went from Matrosskaya Tishina to Manezhnaya Square, destroying the city's festive decorations and tearing off Russian flags along the way. The court did not evaluate this event. As far as other unlawful actions by these groups are concerned—and now they have been concentrated in one united system—no decisions have been made either. The event of 1 May is a result of the connivance of the actions of these political structures.

Now we are considering the situation that is expected on 9 May. We are asking you and we would like the Supreme Soviet to make its position clear in order to ensure law and order on that day. We would very much like the Supreme Soviet not to help political provocateurs with its decisions. I speak about it now and I ask you to pay special attention to this proposal because of a decision that has already been adopted by a small soviet. This is a decision that essentially provokes, despite an instruction, which has already been adopted by the mayor, on holding...

[Khasbulatov, interrupting] Yuriy Mikhaylovich, by the small soviet of what?

[Luzhkov] Ruslan Imranovich, I did not interrupt you. My 10 minutes have not yet ended.

[Khasbulatov] Yuriy Mikhaylovich, the small soviet of what?

[Luzhkov] By the small soviet of Moscow.

[Khasbulatov] By the small soviet of the Moscow City Soviet?

[Luzhkov] Yes. So, I mean, the small soviet adopted the decision that is provocative and in essence repeals the instructions concerning the organization and marshalling of all the processes due to take place on 9 May, instructions adopted by the mayor of Moscow. This decision creates a situation of a legal free-for-all and scoundrels will make use of it without fail. I would ask the Supreme Soviet again, for the sake of calm on that day, to adopt a clear decision on the basis of the law.

Thank you, I have finished.

Khasbulatov Cited; More on Luzhkov

LD0605135193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1304 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Lyudmila Yermakova and Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Members of the Russian Supreme Soviet, meeting here today to discuss the Mayday events in Moscow, honoured the memory of Vladimir Tolokneyev, member of a Special Militia Detachment (OMON), who died of injuries received during the riots.

Addressing the MPs and members of the Russian Government, parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov stressed that the "tragic Mayday events in Moscow have deeply shocked the Russian population and world public opinion". He claimed that "they cannot be regarded as accidental. They are, willingly or unwillingly, the consequence of a definite policy". Today, he noted, it is important to see the "interconnection of actions and political processes". "The point in question is primarily the political side of the matter, which deserves more attention than its criminal aspect, which will be investigated by competent authorities," he added.

Khasbulatov expressed the view that "lying at the bedrock of the Mayday events was the confrontational activity of both left-wing radical parties and groups, broadly represented within the executive bodies, and right-wing radical movements and individual personalities within them". He noted that increasingly used of late is the "strategy of revolutionary expediency and renunciation of democratic achievements". There have been open calls to dissolve the soviets of all levels and "even to remove the power ministers". Khasbulatov expressed the hope that the parliament "will be able to protect them".

Such a policy, in Khasbulatov's view, is being pursued "to intimidate the population and to introduce some forms of a dictatorial regime". Repeating once again that the Mayday events were not "isolated from a general tendency towards autocracy", Khasbulatov expressed concern about the forthcoming Victory Day celebrations. He said that measures should be taken to make May 9 a real holiday of civil peace and concord. He urged the Supreme Soviet, members of all the soviets, and the Moscow executive bodies to do everything they could "not to mar the holiday".

Opening the deliberations, the speaker urged the parliament to discuss the problem in a businesslike spirit.

Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov called to the meeting of the Russian parliament session on Thursday [6 may] stated his views of the May Day clashes in Moscow. He believes a provocation was staged in Gagarin Square on May Day. Its purpose was to unleash a bloody conflict. The mayor said the masterminds of the provocation, leaders of communist organisations, deliberately sent a column of demonstrators against militia cordons. The mayor said that after stating their intention to hold a rally in Red Square and being refused, organisers of the demonstration did not attempt any contacts with the authorities. They did not protest to the Russian public prosecutor's office, although they had a right to do so. Luzhkov believes this indicates that leaders of communist organisations were out to stage a provocation.

The mayor of Moscow said the demonstrators had an opportunity to head for the central exhibition hall via Krymskiy Val, the route endorsed by the mayor's office, but they decided to go to Red Square via Leninskiy Prospect. When the column approached the barrier

formed by trucks and lines of OMON militia, the first five lines of demonstrators that were far ahead of the column attacked militiamen without attempting to debate with them.

Luzhkov said that until an OMON militiaman was crushed to the ground (he died on Wednesday) and OMON trucks were set on fire, militia did not take any decisive actions against demonstrators.

Luzhkov said that on May 1 the mayor's office acted strictly within law and that its actions, just as those of provocateurs, should be assessed by court. Luzhkov said he regards what happenned on May Day as a result of the parliament's connivance with communist structures. The mayor asked parliamentaries to take a clearcut stand and not to encourage "communist provocateurs who prepare to stage distrubances in the capital on the Victory Day". At the same time, Luzhkov said that the small council of the Moscow municipal council did not heed the mayor's requests and passed the decision creating a situation "in which law does not function and of which scoundrels are sure to take advantage".

In answer to Deputy Urazhtsev, the mayor said that he spoke with absolute sincerity and firm conviction.

News Agencies Banned From Covering Meetings

LD0505115793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1113 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—Reporters of three major Russian news agencies—ITAR-TASS, RIA and INTERFAX—will not be allowed to cover the meetings of the parliamentary presidium as from today, correspondents were told by Yuriy Marechenkov, the recently appointed head of the parliamentary press service.

"We have nothing against journalists accredited from the news agencies", but "the agencies interpret the issues considered by the presidium in their own way", he said.

To make the information "uniform" the press service will write it itself. Marechenkov believes this is a common world practice where not all reporters are allowed to be present at parliamentary and governmental meetings.

Marechenkov said he adopted the decision by himself. Only reporters of the press service and of two tv networks will be allowed to cover the work of the presidium.

He also said that parliamentary reporters will be re-registered in May-June because "there are few of them and not all of them come to the Supreme Soviet".

Further on Access Denial

LD0505170493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents have described an unprecedented decision by top officials of the press service of the Russian Parliament to deny journalists of Russian news agencies, including ITAR-TASS, RIA and INTERFAX, access to sessions of the Presidium of the Russian Parliament, as another violation of the freedom of speech and the Russian law on the press.

Yuriy Marechenkov, head of the press service of the Russian Federation, announced today that in future journalists would be provided with "uniform" official information. Marechehnkov said that the move was prompted by the fact that news agencies are "interpreting issues, discussed by the Presidium of the parliament, in their own ways."

By rationing and filtering the information released by the press service, the parliament, elected by the people, is turning itself into a body closed to the public at large, seeking to make the mass media easy-going, ready to feed out of the parliament's hand.

Journalists of the former Soviet TASS News Agency had to perform an unseemly role of a distributor of controlled official information, which they do not want to perform any more.

By denying free access to information, containing no state secrets, to journalists of such a world news agency, as ITAR-TASS, the newly-appointed head of the press service of the Russian Parliament refers to the world-wide practice. However, facts testify to the contrary. In the majority of civilized countries journalists accredited at the parliament, have access to all parliamentary debates, which have an open character and are devoid of secrecy.

News Agencies Threaten Boycott

LD0605092093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0850 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Parliamentary reporters threatened to boycott all official information from the parliamentary press service in retaliation to its decision to ban reporters of three Russian news agencies from attending the meetings of the parliamentary presidium.

"ITAR-TASS, RIA and INTERFAX news agencies were deprived of the right to report objective information from the meetings of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet", the guild of parliamentary reporters said in a statement on Thursday [6 May].

Instead the press service, subordinated to Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, will do the job. The recently appointed head of the press service Yuriy Marechenkov explained the unpresedented decision by saying that "the news agencies interpret the issues discussed by the Presidium in their own way". Now the reporters will have to use "uniform" information of the press service, the guild said.

Although Marechenkov said it was he who made the decision, it is clear that this was impossible without a go-ahead from Khasbulatov, according to the statement.

After a defeat at the nationwide referendum the parliamentary opposition headed by the speaker does not abandon attempts to become the only office which decides what information should state and independent mass media use. This both contradicts the law on mass media and revives the practice of the former communist regime when mass media had to report to the readers semi-truth or open lies. The freedom of the press is again under a threat from the parliament, the guild said.

The guild protested against the decision and warned that if it is not cancelled it may ask all parliamentary reporters to boycott information of the press service as "not corresponding to reality".

Parliamentary Officials Discuss Constitution, Power Crisis

LD0605095493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Lyudmila Yermakova and Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Representatives of democratic groups of the Russian Parliament believe that the crisis of power in Russia mostly has subjective reasons. Yuriy Yeltsov, member of the Radical Democrats parliamentary group, believes that the Russian president, having prepared and making public a draft constitution, offered the Parliament an excellent chance for interaction. But Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov who courts the Communist majority of the Congress obstructs fruitful cooperation, Yeltsov believs.

Yeltsov told ITAR-TASS that Khasbulatov who by intricate steps destroyed the opportunity for interaction between branches of power presents the biggest menace to national security. Yeltsov noted that the speaker uses various methods to disrupt the work of state mechanism, among them insults directed at members of the government. Yeltsov said that the April 25 referendum buried the political opposition. He said that its actions interfere with building new Russia. The fundamental law of new Russia has already been drafted.

Lev Ponomarev, leader of the parliamentary Coalition of Reforms, told ITAR-TASS that the adoption of the "presidential constitution" is much needed now. This will stop "parliamentary leadership's destructive activity". Ponomarev noted particularly that the presidential variant of the constitution does not envisage a post like that held by Khasbulatov.

Reform Coalition Advocates Professional Parliament

LD0505121493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 5 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] According to some reports, the Russian Federation parliament is in the grip of a serious struggle. Today the Parliamentary Coalition for Reform stated that the Congress of People's Deputies must be replaced by a professional parliament. There appears, however, to be no single opinion among members of the democratic faction as to how to achieve this. [passage omitted]

Regional Affairs

Bomb Discovered at Tatarstan Deputy Premier's House

LD0505221193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 5 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to a POSTFACTUM agency report, a powerful explosive device has been discovered at the house of [Ravil] Muratov, deputy prime minister of Tatarstan. The explosives were found by chance by workers who were finishing the decoration of the building. This report came from the POSTFACTUM agency.

Security Ministry Protests Kalmyk President's Edict

MK0505112493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 93 p 6

[Statement by Public Relations Center of the Russian Federation Security Ministry under the rubric "In Brief": "The Fate of Special Services in Kalmykia"]

[Text] Some media sources have circulated a report "On Halting the Activities of the Ministry of Security of the Russian Federation on the Territory of the Republic of Kalmykia." This publication makes reference to a number of documents signed by the president of the republic, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. Under the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the Federation Treaty between Russia and the constituent republics, the question of ensuring state security is under the sole jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and its bodies of state power. Therefore, any attempts to halt the activities of federal bodies of state security on the territory of whatever component of the Federation are inadmissible, and can only be seen as illegal. Without a doubt, the president of the Republic of Kalmykia—Khalmg-Tangch—has the right to seek improved and more efficient forms of administration, including forms of administering state structures. The

edict on bodies of state security itself does not speak of their elimination in the republic, but rather of reforming the Ministry of Security of the Republic of Kalmykia which should be necessarily carried out in coordination with the Russian Security Ministry within the framework of the Constitution and the laws of the Russian Federation "On Federal Bodies of State Security," "On Foreign Intelligence Services," and "On Operational-Detective Activities in the Russian Federation," among other laws. During his meeting with chiefs of the Russian Security Ministry, the president of the Republic of Kalmykia—Khalmg-Tangch—unequivocally confirmed this position.

Chechen Opposition Claims Desertions From Dudayev Camp

LD0505121193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 5 May 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Rival meetings of supporters and opponents of President Dudayev are continuing in Groznyy. The press service of the opposition headquarters on Theatre Square says that the municipal assembly in Gudermes, Chechnya's second most important town, has decided not to obey President Dudayev. Heads of local administrations in Urus-Martanovskiy rayon have expressed support for the demands of the Theatre Square demonstrators. [passage omitted]

'Bogus' Investment Firm Takes St. Petersburg Vouchers

PM0505112993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 May 93 First Edition p 2

[Yevgeniy Solomenko report: "New Speculation With Vouchers: One Hundred Thousand Victims"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—Passions are still raging on the banks of the Neva over speculation by the "Amaris," "Revansh," and "Biznes-Navigator" companies. Overworked investigators are trying to interview 400,000 "witnesses" who hastily entrusted their vouchers and money to these bogus firms. Suddenly there is a new "voucher scandal," and once again its epicenter is in St. Petersburg.

This large-scale scheming was uncovered by staff at the Russian Security Ministry's St. Petersburg Administration. It emerged that in excess of 100,000 Russians have been drawn into it. Last winter KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA published an advertisement in which a certain investment company named "Interkom Inc," based in Kronshtadt, appealed to Russia's citizens: Put your vouchers in our care—and we will make you rich! After such a generous promise, our gullible compatriots hurried to send their privatization checks to St Petersburg.

And the resourceful firm showed ever-mounting vigor. From its Kronshtadt citadel it sent letters across the entire expanse of Mother Russia, truly tempting in essence and oh so patriotic in form: "Dear compatriot! We congratulate you on receiving your privatization check giving you the right to a part of the national heritage of our great Russia! This document serves not only to restore historical justice, but also to further the future prosperity of our fatherland..." After such a lofty preamble, the dear compatriots were offered an "extremely advantageous use" for their privatization checks. Indeed, the offer did look very tasty: After 11 months the voucher handed over to the firm would be returned to the former owner—not in isolation, but together with 100,000 rubles [R].

But after the major scandal involving "Amaris" and "Revansh," local law-enforcement organs had been vigilantly observing new "philanthropists" hovering around other people's vouchers. So it was that "Interkom Inc" also fell into the Russian Security Ministry St. Petersburg Administration's field of vision. And then the surprises began. It emerged that this enigmatic firm was not registered at its stated legal address in Kronshtadt. In fact it did not appear on the books at the tax inspectorate at all. Nor did it figure among investment funds at all.

The contracts promptly sent by "Interkom Inc" to its clients do actually indicate an account number at the Russian Trade and Industry Bank. Verification showed that this account number had nothing to do with the aforementioned or any other bank. And the deposit boxes [abonentnyye yashchiki] at local post offices belonged to fictitious people.

The St. Petersburg cheka have just succeeded in arresting the anonymous entrepreneurs working under cover of this nonexistent company. They turned out to be a Baku resident called "M" and two of his relatives. The pseudo-businessmen were caught red-handed when they tried to take delivery of another consignment of vouchers.

You do not have to be psychic to suggest that during such a complex and delicate matter as privatization we will witness scandals linked with every possible kind of scheme on many more occasions in the future. It is heartening that our law-enforcement organs, it seems, are learning the lessons of past errors and that they are learning to identify schemers before they fill their pockets and disappear with other people's money.

But for now we feel that we ought to recount what happened to those of our trusting compatriots who, in their thirst for an easy and fast buck, still intend to put their voucher in the care of "Interkom Inc." In general it is worth remembering a well-known truth: There is no such thing as "easy money" in honest business.

Hundreds of Hectares of Farmland Affected in Tomsk

LD0605103793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0955 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yakushev]

[Text] Tomsk May 6—The accident at the Tomsk chemical plant has made 500-600 hectares of land unarable, according to Viktor Azarenko, deputy director of the regional agricultural administation on farming.

On the basis of radiation measurements work has been prohibited in this area of pasture lands and hay making fields. "This is somewhat more than in areas with relatively high levels of radiation, but experts believe that the workers should be safe rather than sorry", Azarenko added.

Situation Still Tense in North Ossetia-Ingushetia Region

LD0505170793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1549 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz May 5 TASS—The situation remains tense in the state of emergency zone, which comprises parts of the neighbouring Ingushetia and Northern Ossetia.

According to the staff of the interim administration, unidentified gunmen shot at the Russian Army's checkpoint based near the village of Pervy Redant in Sovietskiy region of Northern Ossetia.

All in all, nine crimes and incidents went on record, 20 persons were detained for administrative offences and some two thousand cars were checked over the past twenty four hours.

Five guns, grenades, hundreds of cartridges of various calibres were seized from the locals.

According to Vladimir Ugrovatov, an official of the Russian State Committee for the Federation and Nationalities, who is responsible for the peace talks on the part of the interim administration, mixed commission members met North-Ossetian and Ingushetian leaders on Wednesday [5 May].

They discussed the comprehensive solution to the issues connected with the refugees and those who were forced to resettle. A package of documents to be further discussed with the Russian federal authorities was considered. The lists of Ingushetians, who had fled Prigorodnyy region in Northern Ossetia, were handed over to the Ingushetian conferees, so that they could check on their permanent residence and non-involvement in the armed conflict.

According to well-informed sources, next session of the North- Ossetian Parliament is scheduled for May 6. A package of documents on social, political and economic issues will be discussed.

The session is expected to sum up the results of the all-Russia referendum held in the republic. As is known, the North-Ingushetian electorate supported Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his economic reforms.

Messages Mark Military District Anniversary

PM0505094193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 May 93 p 1

[Colonel Gennadiy Miranovich article: "The Russian Army Is Young, But It Has Strong Roots and Glorious Traditions"]

[Excerpts] The North Caucasus, Volga, and Urals Military Districts are celebrating their 75th anniversaries today. Jubilee greetings have been sent to the servicemen of Russia's oldest districts, to military establishment and enterprise veterans, workers, and specialists and their families by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev.

Yes, the Russian Armed Forces are very young—on 7 May we will mark the first anniversary of the signing of the presidential edict establishing them. The process of formation is taking place under difficult conditions: tough material and monetary ceilings forcing the Army and the Navy to make savings virtually everywhere; constant attempts to embroil them in political struggle; killed-in-action notices which still arrive in Russian homes, nowadays from trouble spots in neighboring countries; undermanning which threatens to reduce the troops' combat readiness; indifference shown and misrepresentation practiced by certain commanders and chiefs... All this, unfortunately, forms part of the reality of our life and the life of the Armed Forces, which are seeking their own identity. Nevertheless, despite all the difficulties, their image is becoming increasingly worthy of Russia's greatness, while the prospects for military-organizational development are on the whole better defined.

Here are just a few public comments concerning the defense sphere recently made by the defense minister, who has made working visits to a number of regions in the country: It is planned to create a powerful mobile force grouping under joint command involving ground troops, naval forces, and Air Defense and Air Force units and combined units stationed in the Far East. A Far East Joint Command Headquarters will be set up in Komsomolsk-na-Amure by 1995. It is also planned to have joint command of troops in the Transbaykal and Siberia, with headquarters in Ulan-Ude. If the situation in the south of the country gets worse the emergence of such a command in the European part of Russia cannot be ruled out either. On the whole the Armed Forces are becoming more compact and mobile and easier to control.

The districts celebrating their jubilees are also being energetically transformed. The strategic configuration of the Armed Forces is changing with the change in the military-strategic situation, and the mission of the military districts is changing too. Notably, the Urals and Volga Military Districts, which were once seen as of secondary importance, are becoming the base for the preparation of mobilization assets. The formerly internal

North Caucasus Military District is now becoming a border district. A powerful Russian strategic echelon is now being created on its basis in the North Caucasus.

It is clear that all these transformations require considerable effort and material outlay. Take, for example, the problem of technically reequipping the Army. Foreign experience shows, for example, that the creation of mobile forces invariably involves improving the air-transportability of equipment and armaments, standardizing the caliber of weapons and ammunition, organizing modular loading and transportation methods, setting up a unified base for vehicles according to fuel type, and so forth.

But the solution of problems of a technical nature is only one aspect of military organizational development. At the same time the creation of a qualitatively new army means overcoming the kind of spiritual vacuum which formed among the military during the initial period and reviving the best army and navy traditions. And from this perspective the invocation of the history of Russia's oldest military districts contained in the greetings messages from the leadership of the country and the Armed Forces is very, very relevant. The present-day defenders of the fatherland performing their service there have something to be proud of, something to inherit. [passage omitted]

Yes, the annals of the Russian Armed Forces began at a difficult period for our fatherland. This is also noted in the greetings documents marking the 75th anniversary of the three military districts. But I do nevertheless think that we have grounds for looking to the future of the Army and Navy with optimism. The "military package" of laws recently adopted is particularly encouraging. The consistency shown in implementing the plans to reform the troops and forces is also encouraging, as are the signs of increasingly close attention paid to the traditions of the Russian military both within the Army and on the part of the authorities.

I know from our correspondents' reports that jubilee ceremonies are planned in Rostov-na-Donu, Samara, and Yekaterinburg, in the republics on whose territory the troops of the feted military districts are stationed. May they serve as a good example of the country's concern for its defenders.

Program Examines Udmurtia Arms Industry

LD0505193493

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1445 GMT on 5 May broadcasts the "Large Circle" program in which an unidentified announcer examines the defense industry of Urdmurtia and how it is coping with the policy of switching to civilian output. She sets the scene with this introduction:

"Udmurtia is one of the republics that signed the Federation Treaty. Until recently it was shrouded in secrecy. The military-industrial complex accounted for too much of its industrial output. Neither journalists nor filmmakers were allowed into its factories, and those who we interview today were in the not-so-distant past nameless; they were called simply the chief designer or the factory manager."

The film shows a building with "Votkinsk Factory Industrial Association" painted along one side and a brief interior shot. The presenter notes that one of the first managers here was Ilya Chaikovskiy, father of the composer. Udmurtia is now converting its military industry into civilian production, she continues, and to footage of missile launchers and a trade fair she gives the following background information:

"Russia's share of the world arms market has fallen from 38 to 18 percent within just a few years. This is one of the state's primary sources of hard currency. On March 31, 1992, Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin signed a decree on measures to provide for defense industry conversion in the Udmurt Republic. Under the decree, some of the income from the oil extracted in the republic and also from arms sales should remain in Udmurtia. Conversion, after all, is an expensive business. It requires money, and lots of it."

The video cuts to Vitaliy Solovyev, deputy chairman of the Udmurtia Council of Ministers, who stands alongside a hand-drawn chart of local factories and their progress from military to civilian production. Referring to the chart, Solovyev says that conversion is being pushed through despite a lack of financing. The chart is shown on-screen as follows:

Extent of conversion 1988-1992 at factories located within the Republic of Udmurtia

Factory	Extent of conversion compared to previous year				
	1989 to 1988	1990 to 1989	1991 to 1990	1992 to 1991	1992 to 1988
Republic as a whole	—	45.0	22.2	50.0	78.2
including:					
Izhevsk, total	—	—	—	—	58.7
Factories:					
Motozavod [Motorworks]	25.0	35.0	—	45.0	84.0

Extent of conversion 1988-1992 at factories located within the Republic of Udmurtia (Continued)

Factory	Extent of conversion compared to previous year				
	1989 to 1988	1990 to 1989	1991 to 1990	1992 to 1991	1992 to 1988
Elektromekhanicheskiy zavod [Electronic and Mechanical goods]	—	—	11.0	42.0	44.0
Neftemash [Oil Machinery]	11.0	—	47.0	88.0	88.0
Reduktor	7.0	—	—	55.0	18.0
Mekhanicheskiy zavod [Mechanical goods]	—	18.4	28.5	79.2	87.0
Progress technical institute	—	15.0	41.0	53.0	71.0
Radiozavod [Radio factory]	5.8	18.1	15.0	47.4	85.0
Izhstal [Izhevsk steel mill]	—	5.0	39.0	74.0	85.0
Izhmash	—	—	7.5	42.5	40.0
Bummash [Paper and machinery]	—	31.0	—	—	100.0

The announcer notes that the extent worldwide amounts to between 3 and 5 percent.

Aleksandr Palyanov, general director of the Votkinskiy Zavod Industrial Association, briefly comments on conversion:

"Conversion is a category of economic and managerial activity. It means that any economic or managerial act has to be conducted in a [state-] planned manner, and not in the way that we have been proceeding since 1987, taking into account the fact that our factory was the first to undertake conversion and was also affected by the plan. By this I mean that in 1987 there were plans, and then they announced a cut in state orders for SS-20 missiles after the treaty was signed. I can't say that this helped us. I can't say that this helped us make up for the losses that the factory sustained, given that kind of economic planning.

"Later, when a planned reduction in state orders for all kinds of weaponry took place—I'm talking about missiles because I make them—(?we could have done something to counter this). Unfortunately, our political instability has affected economic policy at high levels. They started making changes and cutbacks and disbanding ministries without regard for the effect on existing manufacturers, i.e., on the actual factories."

The video cuts to Yevgeniy Storonkin, general director of the Sarapul Electric Generators Industrial Association, who also voices misgivings about the way conversion is being pursued. He complains that since 1988 his business has lost 70 percent of its orders for military aircraft and other equipment. Over footage of electrical components being assembled and other production line scenes, he says that the association has fallen on hard times but is trying to pull through by relying on its high level of technical expertise. One of the latest products is shown on-screen, a multipurpose hand-held drill. Storonkin adds that although his latest products are selling well, the factory is capable of making things that are far more technologically advanced.

The presenter then moves on to the social consequences of conversion. Fewer orders means fewer workers, but it is often major factories and not the local authorities that finance local amenities.

Vladimir Chuguyevskiy, general director of the Izhevsk Mechanical Works Industrial Association, says that his business planned in advance for conversion. It is now making cardiac massage equipment, compact and video disks, and computers that he describes as "fairly good, given our conditions." Over video footage of these products as well as rifles, he says:

"We are using our production capacity, but not to 100 percent, of course. Quite recently we were working at 65-percent capacity. We're now at 8 percent. This doesn't seem so much, but we could switch over to the new civilian products that we've made. Right now, though, we can't, because the tax and banking systems are against us."

"We're currently owed about 2 billion rubles by our customers. If they don't pay off their debts, then we can't buy equipment and materials and parts. We just grind to a halt. We're currently on the verge of the precipice, and have been since last July."

"By cutting back our production and sales of weapons," the announcer says over footage of various battlefield scenes, "we've opened up the world market for the

United States. Within a short time the Americans have expanded their military exports from 30 to 58 percent. Millions of dollars that our country needs so badly have instead gone into the pockets of American industrialists.

"Last year Russia was able to sell less than 2 billion [currency not specified] worth of defense equipment.

"While we're trying to decide whether it's moral to trade in weapons, other countries with no such scruples are selling the same Kalashnikov rifles. A foreign trade company was set up in Udmurtia recently, the Kalashnikov joint-stock company. It has been given the right to trade in foreign markets. The right is there, but the opportunity, unfortunately, isn't."

The video then cuts to Yuriy Belotserkovskiy, chief engineer at the Izhmash Industrial Association. A coherent policy to make inroads into the world arms market is required, he says, and so far only certain elements of it are visible. Russia was allowed to display its wares at the Abu Dhabi expo, many weapons have been declassified, and trade organizations have been shaken up. He and Aleksandr Likhachev, deputy general director of Izhmash, are critical of the bureaucracy involved in selling goods abroad. Likhachev holds up a form and says:

"All the latest innovations in military and technical trade in my view are not improving but rather exacerbating the situation. Look at this. It's a license that everyone has to fill in. You have to say which country the product's going to, who the manufacturer is, who the middleman is, and most importantly for us, you have to let out a commercial secret—the price."

The two men complain that identical copies of their Dragunov sniper's rifle are on sale in the United States and elsewhere, but they are not allowed to sell the real thing.

The announcer concludes the program by calling for all weapons factories to be allowed to export freely. This is a better option than just exporting raw materials, she says over footage of rifles being manufactured and tested, because it harnesses the country's technological and intellectual skills.

Nizhniy Novgorod Voucher Auctions Continue

PM0605145193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 5 May 93

[By N. Zvereva and I. Stanovov from Nizhniy Novgorod; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Zvereva] The third privatization voucher auction is under way in Nizhniy Novgorod. The results of the first two are as follows: There are two enterprises which have failed to attract the requisite number of applications. These are the Motor Transport Company and the "Gormetrostroy" [city subway construction]. It is interesting to note that during the second auction twice as many enterprises took part, but the number of vouchers was the same as the first time at around 36,500.

Another interesting detail is that the enterprise which holds the record is undergoing large-scale conversion. It is the "Nitel" joint-stock company, a television company where production of video recorders in cooperation with Sharp, the Japanese company, has started recently. Here the price of shares has risen to 12.5 times the nominal value.

International Affairs

Council Votes To Abide by 1980 Nuclear Materials Convention

LD0505201893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The 1980 convention on the physical protection of nuclear materials is to be considered obligatory for Ukraine, as one of the legal successor states of the former Soviet Union.

This was the decision adopted by the Supreme Council session at its evening plenary session. It had been proposed by the Ukrainian president. During the discussion, it was stressed that this convention regulated the efforts of almost 100 states in counteracting criminal actions that encroach upon the rights of and can result in considerable damage to people, their property, and the environment.

Ukraine's participation in the convention and the fulfillment of its requirements will raise radiation safety levels at Ukraine's nuclear facilities and will promote intensive measures to ensure the safekeeping of nuclear material.

The session also adopted the draft law on Ukraine's international agreements at its first reading.

Plyushch Confers With British Envoy on Nuclear Issues

LD0505212693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Ukraine Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch received Simon Hemans, British ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Ukraine, at the latter's request on 5 May.

A business-like conversation was held, in the course of which the ambassador was introduced to processes currently under way in Ukraine. The issue relating to problems of disarmament and, in particular, elimination of nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory was raised at the ambassador's request.

Plyushch explained that Ukraine firmly abides by its policy outlined, which is to become a non-nuclear state. It also intends to reduce its armed forces to considerable extent. However, our state was relying on the West adopting an understanding attitude towards Ukraine's need for collective security guarantees, the head of parliament said.

During the conversation, considerable attention was paid to interparliamentary links. It was stressed that they were of significant importance to the successful development of democratic processes.

Rukh Chairman Opposes Missile Transfer to Russia

AU0605100093 Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 3 May 93 p 8

[Interview with Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of the Ukrainian Rukh movement, by Manfred Quiring; place and date not given: "Will Ukraine Become a De Jure Nuclear State?"]

[Text] [Quiring] How do you assess the prospects for the final ratification of the START I Treaty and the Nonproliferation Treaty by the Ukrainian parliament?

[Chornovil] I think that we will ratify START, and I am all for it. However, there are a number of conditions. First, we demand security guarantees from Russia. Even though we have convinced ourselves that we do not have any potential enemies, when Russia's Vice President Rutskoy and the parliament make territorial claims on Ukraine, there must be something.

Therefore, we expect guarantees and material compensation. Compensation only means securing disassembly, which is very expensive. We are expected to transport all the warheads to Russia and that is it. But what does one do with the missiles with liquid fuel, with the launch chutes, and the people who operate all that? They, too, must receive social safeguards if they are to be unemployed in the future. Ecological problems also play a serious role. Only when all this is clarified may START I be ratified.

However, this does not exhaust Ukraine's nuclear potential. There remain 46 missiles, and I am absolutely against transferring them to Russia. One need not be hypocritical. We are a de facto nuclear state, we must declare ourselves as such as a matter of law. This would be a clear gesture that we are the first nuclear state to express its intention to free itself from nuclear weapons.

[Quiring] Actually, Ukraine itself cannot really dispose of its nuclear missiles.

[Chornovil] This is claimed, but it is wrong. First, they are on our territory. Second, we have certain administrative control. In a decree Colonel General Konstantin Morosov, the Ukrainian defense minister, obliged the 43d Missile Army, which is stationed in Ukraine, to swear an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people. Therefore, this army is subject to Ukrainian control to a certain extent. In addition, there are technical possibilities to prevent a sudden missile launch.

[Quiring] How were your views received during your visits to the United States and Great Britain?

[Chornovil] The main thing for the United States is that there are no missiles aimed at its territory. Unfortunately, in the United States there is something that I would call democratic imperialism.

It considers Ukraine still to be a zone of Russia's strategic interests. We are expected simply to raise our hands. Both the United States and Russia want that.

I have asked for more consideration to be shown toward those states that are located in the "buffer zone" between Russia and the Western world.

[Quiring] What could the United States do to support Ukraine in overcoming its economic crisis and what can it not do?

[Chornovil] It cannot implement the reforms for us or work for us. We ourselves must forge our happiness. Nevertheless, we must think about aid in the form of loans. We must compensate for the deteriorating living conditions. If we had been given loans for the purchase of the necessary foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals, we would have had fewer political difficulties. Today dissatisfaction is very strong, and the people link the current scarcity of goods with the fact that we have become an independent state.

Loans, investment, economic cooperation—these are the important factors. The United States is implementing them to a minimum degree. Washington can support the democratic forces quietly via various funds but certainly not by direct pressure.

[Quiring] How important are Ukrainian-Russian relations for you? How can they be normalized?

[Chornovil] We need normal relations with Russia. One need not have come up with the CIS, since normal bilateral relations with Russia would have been sufficient. Then the current blackmails and economic traps would not exist. I am worried by the constant statements by Prime Minister Kuchma about the resumption of relations with Russia, from which we depend on 60 percent. Unfortunately, the government is not making any attempt to break out of this dependence or to reorient Ukraine's economy.

In addition, Ukraine must look for contacts with Russian democratic forces. We have gradually lost them all.

Kravchuk Ready To Meet Yeltsin on Black Sea Fleet

LD0605090393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk is ready to meet with his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin to discuss matters related to the Black Sea Fleet. The idea of such a meeting, according to Kravchuk, was suggested by the Fleet's commander and if Yeltsin accepts the proposal it can be held in Sevastopol in the near time.

On the issue of dividing the Black Sea Fleet between Russia and Ukraine, Kravchuk admitted there was a delay in implementing the corresponding agreement. He called for an early solution to the problem with an eye to the interests of both countries.

At the same time Kravchuk warned that Ukraine would not share the Fleet's ground bases since, in his opinion, it would amount to sharing the republic's territory.

Security Service Denies Interfering in Russian Affairs

LD0605105093 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1851 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] [no dateline as received]—Issue 15, 1993, of the ARGUMENTY I FAKTY weekly carried a short article entitled "Is the USSR's KGB on the March Again?" In it, "arguments" were put forward by an anonymous member of the Russian Federation president's staff. They had to do with behind-the-scenes links between the special services of Ukraine and Russia, established to discredit these states' bodies of power. The public relations center of the Russian Security Ministry in the next ARGUMENTY I FAKTY issue (number 16) denied this report. It described it as "absolutely far-fetched" and said "it does not correspond with reality."

The press center of the Security Service of Ukraine is authorized to state the following:

The Ukrainian special service fully supports this denial. There is nothing extraordinary in the fact that there emerged this kind of report. After all, it is a common secret that there are quite powerful forces in Russia infected with the incurable disease of sadness about the old times. They are interested in maintaining constant tension in Russian-Ukrainian relations. It is not only the timing of the article that was not left to chance, for it was published on the day before the next round of negotiations in Moscow on the Black Sea Fleet issues. It is also the topics raised that are most painful in interstate relations between Ukraine and Russia, and that require from both sides the maximum amount of goodwill and desire to understand each other.

The security service has the unique opportunity of accessing secret information and making use of it. No other state body is as aware of the real consequences that confrontation between the neighboring states can bring about as the security service is. That is why our aim is in every way to promote the finding of a mutually acceptable solution to problems existing between the two states, rather than to impede it.

That is why the very idea of the special services of Russia and Ukraine creating tension in relations between the two states, expressed by an allegedly "high-ranking member of staff at the Russian Federation president's staff," is absurd and provocative.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Working Visit

LD0505173693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1643 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Kiev May 5 TASS—A special envoy of the Russian president and First Deputy Russian Foreign Minister, Anatoliy Adamishin, arrived in Kiev on a working visit on Wednesday [5 May].

Today, he met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko to discuss important problems of Russo-Ukrainian relations. The meeting was attended by the Russian Ambassador to Ukraine, Leonid Smolyakov.

ITAR-TASS learned from the press centre of the Russian embassy in Ukraine that the programme of the visit includes Adamishin's meetings with other Ukrainian statesmen and leaders of political parties and public organisations.

Treatment of Ethnic Ukrainians in Yugoslavia Protested

LD0405181593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1758 GMT 4 May 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Kiev May 4 TASS—Ukraine cannot reconcile itself to the gross violations of rights of some 60,000 ethnic Ukrainians whose ancestors settled in the Balkan Peninsula a few centuries ago, says a statement released by the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday. Hundreds of ethnic Ukrainians have been thrown into concentration camps or driven from their houses. Ukrainian churches, cloisters, schools and libraries have been destroyed, houses and farms plundered. Thousands of Ukrainians (Greek Catholics) are being persecuted on religious grounds.

Facts of infringement upon the human rights of the ethnic Ukrainian minority on the territory of former Yugoslavia were pointed out in Ukraine's appeals to the relevant organizations and their bodies, such as the U.N. Centre for Human Rights, the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials, the International Red Cross Committee.

Ukraine urges the warring sides to stop hostilities and resolutely demands that the governing bodies of the states, which emerged on former Yugoslavian territory, ensure strict observance of all international agreements now valid pertaining to protection of human rights and rights of national minorities.

Official Says FRY Sanctions Paralyzing Trade

LD0505160693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Speaking at a briefing at the Foreign Ministry's Press Center on 4 May, (Bohdan Martynenko), the ministry's department first secretary said that UN sanctions against Yugoslavia have virtually paralyzed the Ukrainian Danube shipping because of serious stringent transit requirements, making it necessary to wait for a transit permission from the UN Sanctions Committee for at least one to even two weeks, which results in nonobservance of shipment contract terms and damages. The sanctions have resulted in discontinuance of Ukrainian iron ore shipments to Austrian metallurgical engineering enterprises (?with) a look for other suppliers. Similarly, some important contracts with German firms had to be cancelled for the same reason. Where Ukraine has been sticking to the UN sanctions against Yugoslavia, its losses, through keeping to them, have become so enormous that they jeopardize its economic sovereignty, Mr. (Martynenko) stressed. He said the Danube's shipping 25,000 personnel was faced with a very real threat of unemployment.

As is known, the Ukrainian Government appealed to the United Nations Organization to set up a fund to compensate for losses suffered by the Danube region countries because of anti-Serbian sanctions. There has been no official response though so far.

Interior Ministry Delegation Visits Israel

LD0505174593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] A Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs delegation headed by First Deputy Interior Minister Valentyn Nedryhaylo has visited Israel. The Ukrainian law enforcement officials acquainted themselves with the experience of the Israeli police in combating crime and terrorism, reviewed technical equipment, criminology laboratories, prisons, and police schools, and took part in a police patrol. During a meeting with the Israeli minister of police affairs, the need for the two ministries to cooperate in crime prevention was pointed out.

National Affairs

Seventh Session of Supreme Council Continues

LD0505165093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0500 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The seventh session of the Verhovna Rada [Supreme Council] of Ukraine continued its work on 4 May. The Verhovna Rada deputies considered the range of issues to be discussed at subsequent plenary meetings. They suggested a number of changes and amendments to be introduced into the agenda of the session. For example, the deputies proposed not to discuss an issue pertaining to the governmental awards of Ukraine because many veterans of the former Soviet Army, who participated in the Second World War, might view these discussions, on the eve of V-Day, as a personal insult.

Second, until today the government has failed to provide social protection to the former soldiers of the Ukrainian nationalist organization and the Ukrainian insurgent army who made their contribution to the victory over Nazi Germany. People's Deputy Larysa Skorik said that we have no moral right to celebrate the V- Day holiday because we have done nothing to revere the memory of our heros who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of Ukraine in a proper way.

A group of people's deputies requested the presidium of the Verhovna Rada to discuss the issue concerning the restoration of the Communist Party of Ukraine. Responding to their requests, chairman of the Verhovna Rada, Ivan Plyushch, said he had a talk with many deputies who signed this request. They insist on that no member of the Communist Party should be considered a criminal, as the party on a whole [sentence as heard]. Under true democracy, any party has the right to existence and no one can forbid you to believe in the communist ideals and the socialist way of production. So the Verhovna Rada has to work out the most optimal solution so that neither the left nor the right or the centrists have grounds for criticism. He proposed to support the request of the deputies and confirm the right of the citizens of Ukraine to organize and be members of the Communist Party.

During the session, the law on the quarantine of plants in Ukraine and the aviation code of Ukraine have been adopted. The chairman of the commission for instituting new governmental awards, Volodymr Hrynyov, delivered a report. After the discussion of the report, the deputies decided to send the draft resolution on the governmental awards of Ukraine for revision.

The Verhovna Rada has introduced changes and amendments to the following laws. On enterprises in Ukraine, on renting property of state enterprises and organizations and on collective farms. The Verhovna Rada introduced a change to Article 25 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, approved changes and amendments to the code of Ukraine concerning administrative violations by the environmental protection organs. The next plenary meeting is scheduled for 5 May.

Debate Focuses on Chernobyl Issue

LD0505194293 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1557 GMT 5 May 93

[Excerpts] The scope and level of radiational contamination caused by the Chernobyl catastrophe have had an unprecedented effect on population and ecological systems. On 5 May, the Supreme Council at its morning plenary sitting deliberated a concept of the national program for the elimination of the Chernobyl accident aftermath and for the social protection of citizens for the years 1993-1994 and over the period of up to the year 2000. [passage omitted]

The concept was presented by Hryhoriy Hotovshchyts, minister for the protection of population from the aftermath of the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] accident. Speaking on its contents, he stressed that the program's main objective was to reduce the general risk of the loss of health by the population who had suffered from the accident, and by those groups of population which were residing on the territory affected by radiation. [passage omitted]

Following an all-sided and extensive debate, the session passed the concept at its first reading and instructed standing commissions and the government to finalize it, with deputies' remarks and proposals taken into consideration.

The session also invalidated some of the legislative enactments (in connection with the adoption of "The Basics of Ukraine's Legislation on Health Protection"); examined issues of withdrawing and allotting plots of land for non-agricultural needs; and introduced changes and amendments to the Supreme Council resolution "On Establishing Diplomatic and Consular Missions of Ukraine" and to some of the legislative enactments of Ukraine in connection with the adoption of the law "On Security" and "On Introducing Changes and Amendments to the Land Code of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic."

Belarus

Supreme Soviet To Review Completed Constitution Draft

WS0605082893 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Constitutional Committee working group has completed its drafting of the new fundamental law of the Republic of Belarus. The draft document will be submitted for review by the 12th Supreme Soviet session. The document was completed in accordance with the 5 February Supreme Soviet resolution, which outlined its basic provisions. However, the working group did not limit itself to this resolution alone. Prior to this, it reviewed all remarks and recommendations sent to the Constitutional Committee by people's deputies, citizens, and law-making state organs. On the basis of these recommendations, an explanatory note has been drafted in order to assist the deputies in submitting all the provisions of the new constitution to a comprehensive analysis. The Supreme Soviet is expected to hold an article-by-article debate and express its attitude toward each specific article and the document in general.

Government Rejects Russian Example of Privatization

LD0505204493 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] A routine sitting of the Presidium of the Belarus Council of Ministers has been held under the chairmanship of [Prime Minister] Vyacheslav Kebich.

Uladzimir Radkevich, chairman of the state committee for external economic relations, presented the draft resolution on a uniform procedure of allocating and licensing the export and import of goods, work, and services on the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

The draft state privatization program was also actively discussed. The government's position on this most important issue was defined. It was decided to reject Russia's experience of handing out enterprises vouchers in favor of selling their shares. The value of fixed and floating assets of the enterprises being privatized must be calculated in hard currency with subsequent recalculation into the national currency, taking into account the interests of working collectives and the population. This option will (?as usual) be submitted to the next session of the Supreme Soviet.

The Presidium of the Council of Ministers also considered some other issues of the republic's socio-economic and cultural life.

Polish Military Team Visits, Signs Cooperation Pact

MK0505133493 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 19, 5 May 93 (Signed to Press 4 May) p 9

[Aleksandr Cherepanov report: "The Troops Are There, The Purpose Is Not"]

[Text] A Polish military delegation led by National Defense Minister J. Onyszkiewicz has paid a visit to Minsk where a Polish-Belarusian agreement on military cooperation was signed. Belarus is the third former Union republic (following Ukraine and Latvia) to have become Poland's military partner. Similar agreements with Lithuania and Russia are in the pipeline.

Speaking at a press conference in Minsk, J. Onyszkiewicz and Belarus Defense Minister P. Kozlovskiy refuted the rumors that the armed forces of both countries are being deliberately concentrated on both sides of the border between Poland and Belarus. According to the ministers, this is not being done by design. Both Poland and Belarus deploy their troops where there are barracks and "military compounds" inasmuch as they are not building any new military installations.

"In the future," Kozlovskiy said, "we will try to move our troops away from the border. Demonstrating our trust in our Western neighbor, we are already cutting the number of units deployed in Grodno and Brest."

I asked the ministers to comment on the assessments by a number of observers in Moscow who are inclined to regard the treaties on military cooperation as pursuing the objective of encircling Russia as was done soon after October 1917. J. Onyszkiewicz said: "Had our plans not provided for concluding soon an agreement on military cooperation with Russia as well, doubts of this nature would have had grounds. We have no objectives "to fence off" Russia. It is impossible today to speak seriously of any sort of security in Europe without including Russia."

Moldova

Snegur Reports Progress in Solving Ethnic Conflicts

LD0505125693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The president of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, has reported progress in settling the problems of Pridnestriya and Gagauziya. Moldova is already close to a compromise with the leaders of the Gagauz people, a small ethnic group living in the south of the republic. It (?will) be based on a high level of local self-government. President Snegur said that there is hope that it will be possible to solve, on the same principles, the complicated problem of the Pridnestriya, where many Russians and Ukrainians live. In a interview for the Moscow press,

President Snegur noted that when the situation was stabilized, the government was able to stop a drop in industrial production.

Supreme Court To Annul Tiraspol Ruling as 'Unconstitutional'

AU0605122193 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Nicolae Timofte, vice chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Moldova, made a statement to Chisinau Radio regarding the trial of the political prisoners in Tiraspol, saying that the juridical bodies acting there are unconstitutional and have no authority whatever on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

Timofte also said that the persons who are members of those bodies are, quote, committing crimes and will be called to account for their deeds. They must be stopped because they are violating both the laws of the Republic of Moldova and a number of articles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, unquote.

Timofte pointed out the position of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Moldova on the issue, according to which regardless of what ruling is made in the case of the Tiraspol political prisoners, it will be annulled as unconstitutional.

Romania Training 'Terrorists' To Provoke Conflict

AU0505120293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 4/5/1993—The newspaper of the Russian community "KISHINEVSKYE NOVOSTI" ("Chisinau's news") from Chisinau published, by reprinting from the newspaper "ODESSKYE IZVESTIYA" an article in which a self-styled "Romanian officer" published on the 23 February 1993 in the newspaper "BUKOVINA" from Cernauti [Chernovtsy] a letter titled "Where the strings (tentacles) of terror stretch to" returns to allegations that the Romanian Security Services [RSS] prepared terrorist groups. The activity concerning the training of terrorists in Romania continues, claims M. Silvestru, the person who signed the article. "Organisers behind those groups failed to condemn first article which was published because their intentions are to provoke, with the help of terrorists-mercenaries, a new armed conflict, assaults, and explosions directed against the heads of government and well-known politicians from Moldova, Dniester as well as against the representatives of Ukraine, the U.S.A., Russia, Turkey, Bulgaria and other states which recognised Moldova as an independent state," indicates the article. The Ministry of the National Security from Moldova is blamed for expressing indifference to those facts because "It doesn't want to upset relations with colleagues from the RSS." The author offered other "details" which were presented by the newspaper "BUKOVINA" and expressed "hope that the Security Services of Ukraine, Russia, the U.S.A., Moldova and other states will undertake adequate steps to end and condemn the subversive activity of the RSS." The author makes references to some people who were directly involved in the selection process of recruiting and sending to Romania teenagers from Moldova and Ukraine (the editorial staff specifies that it will publish their names only after an official answer from the Ministry of the National Security of Moldova). At the end of the article the author claims that he will bring evidence concerning "new lists of the people who were trained for those actions, documents which confirm preparation of terrorists for the physical liquidation of some Dniester leaders; financial documents, documents, personnel declarations by people concerning their cooperation with RSS, lists of the terrorists-mercenaries who are citizens of Moldova, Ukraine and other nations.

Kazakhstan

President Meets Servicemen, Outlines Military Doctrine

LD0605113493 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] On 5 May in the Army House in Almaty, there was a celebratory meeting of servicemen of the capital's garrison, veterans of the Great Fatherland War, and representatives of the public devoted to the 48th anniversary of the victory over fascist Germany and the first anniversary of the creation of the republic's Armed Forces.

A speech was made to those present by President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Our military doctrine, he said, takes into account the military doctrines of the CIS countries, and presupposes cooperation with them on the basis of multilateral and bilateral treaties and agreements in tackling joint defense tasks. The republic is ready also to consider all peace-loving states of the international community as its allies in the cause of preventing possible war.

The president also dwelt on questions of social protection for servicemen and members of their families. Nursultan Nazarbayev congratulated those present on the noteworthy festivals and wished them good health, prosperity, happiness, and peace. Supreme Kenges Chairman Serikbolsyn Abdildin and Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko attended the celebratory meeting.

Nazarbayev Opposes Confederative State in Central Asia

LD0505153693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1355 GMT 5 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Ignatov]

[Text] Almaty May 5 TASS—"Neither a confederation nor a state based on other principles will be formed in the Central Asian region," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev told a meeting with heads of republican mass media bodies here today.

"Everyone wants to live in his own apartment, not in a communal flat. The same goes to sovereign states," said the official.

At the same time, all Central Asian leaders hold a policy of economic rapprochement, said the president.

The main task faced by Kazakhstan is economic reforms. "We need a strong party of democratic reforms. If such an organization appears in Kazakhstan, I will not stay aside," he noted.

Trade Officials Hold Talks With Iranian Commerce Minister

LD0405140893 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Moscow, May 4, IRNA—Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abdolhoseyn Vahaji discussed ways for expansion of Tehran-Almaty economic and trade relations with Kazakh officials in Almaty Tuesday [4 May]. Other issues discussed in the meetings included establishment of a joint chamber of commerce, joint investments, boosting the shipping line in the Caspian Sea, removal of banking and customs problems.

Vahaji, who arrived in Kazakhstan from Turkmenistan on Sunday, discussed the said issues with Kazakh Foreign Trade Minister Sizdik Abishev, Industries Minister Oleg Soskovets, Agriculture Minister Baltash Tursumbayev and Trade Minister Oktiabr Zheltikov.

Tereshchenko Ready To Broaden Cooperation

NC0505065393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko has called for broadening relations with Iran, particularly economic and commercial.

In his meeting with Commerce Minister 'Abdolhoseyn Vahaji, the Kazakh prime minister described last year's meeting between the two countries' leaders as an excellent basis for expanding such cooperation.

Tereshchenko said his country is ready to export wheat and meat to Iran, while Vahaji said Iran is ready to collaborate in joint investment in oil, gas, and the export of industrial goods to Kazakhstan, setting up banks and lubricant factories there.

In his meeting with Kazakhstan's oil minister and at the joint session in Tehran, Vahhaji stressed bilateral cooperation.

Our commerce minister is visiting Kazakhstan at the head of an economic delegation for a few days.

Protesters Demand End to PRC Nuclear Tests

OW0605034493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 4 May 93

[By A. Nugmanova from Almaty; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] What do we live for? What will we leave our descendants? One can no longer give a simple answer to these questions. A meeting and protest march organized by aktivists of the popular headquarters of the antinuclear movement was held in Almaty. In the square by Parliament House they displayed slogans protesting continued testing of mass destruction weapons at the Lop

Nur test range in China. The radioactive fallout from 10 years of explosions carries a serious danger and has a pernicious effect on the health of people not only in China, but in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian republics as well. After all, we are neighbors. [Video shows A. Asylbekov, head of the peace march, speaking loudly to Nugmanova.]

[Begin recording] [Asylbekov] We wish and, in fact, we struggle for the life of all mankind's descendants. With this in mind, we have undertaken this peace march and we undertook a haj to Mecca, the holy place of all eastern Muslims, where we made a prayerful vow in honor of all those who have perished from nuclear disasters—Semipalatinsk, Lop Nur, Nevada in the United States, France, and Great Britain. Kazakhstan, which was the first to close down the imperial nuclear test site on its territory, is now undertaking a peace march aimed at closing down all test sites. [video cuts to show A. Akimbek, not further identified, speaking in front of Parliament House]

[Akimbek] Remember the end of May last year, when the Chinese militarists carried out an enormously powerful explosion of one and a half megatons on 21 May? This is equivalent to 100 Hiroshimas. Can you imagine it? Today, when we demand the closing down of the Lop Nur test range, we are not interfering in China's internal affairs because radiation does not choose borders. It does not distinguish whether you are Chinese, Russian, Kazakh, or Uygur. We are all subject to radiation danger. [end recording]

A statement appealing for measures to end nuclear testing for the benefit of all people was presented to the PRC Embassy in Kazakhstan. The Semipalatinsk test range is closed, but grim consequences remain, and regardless of the measures we undertake, they will always be insufficient.

DPRK Embassy Holds Briefing on U.S. Ties

LD0305163693 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] At a news conference held at the DPRK's Embassy in Kazakhstan, Pak Chae-pil stated his government's point of view on the withdrawal of his country from the international agreement on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. The U.S. and Russian attitudes toward the action were also discussed, which were reflected in the recent statement of their leaders and the agreement signed at the summit of the U.S. and Russian presidents in Vancouver. In particular, the ambassador noted that the U.S. side exercised pressure on some representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency in order to learn defensive points in the DPRK during monitoring. The ambassador stressed that they could not help opting out of the aforementioned agreement in such a situation.

It was said at the news conference that this problem is cited as a pretext for the U.S. Government to impede the development of ties between North Korea and western states, and it is not of an international nature but pertains to the relations between the DPRK and the United States alone. It can be settled only on the basis of talks held between the two states.

Armenia

President's Spokesman Welcomes UN Resolution on Karabakh

LD0605053993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0531 GMT 6 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan May 6 TASS—A peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict is represented in the Resolution 822 of the UN Security Council as a complex of measures and the withdrawal of troops from the Kelbadzhar region of Azerbaijan is viewed by the world community directly in this context. Such is the opinion of the Armenian leadership expressed to TASS on Thursday by Aram Abrahamyan, spokesman of the Armenian president.

He added that such an approach allows to continue peacekeeping efforts in the CSCE framework and resume talks on a ceasefire in all the hotspots in the region. The UN resolution practically acknowledges Nagorno-Karabakh as one of the parties involved in the conflict, Abrahamyan said. The provision on the cessation of all hostile actions is of principled importance, he stressed.

Armenia is ready to promote success at CSCE talks and is adherent to a peaceful solution of the Karabakh conflict, the spokesman said.

Karabakh Official's UN Letter Expresses 'Concern'

NC0505132893 Yerevan SNARK in English 0948 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Stepanakert, 4 May (SNARK)—[dateline as received] Georgy Petrosyan, acting chairman of the Karabakh Parliament, sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali. The continuing for some years Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict has come up to the point, the letter in particular reads, when any ill-considered step or announcement are able to put many people's security under a threat in the large region. Karabakh leadership had repeatedly called and is calling all international organizations and countries leaders, interested in peace recovery, to take any decisions relating the development of situation very carefully. In connection with the above, the letter expresses a concern on the April 30 UN Security Council decision which, in Karabakh leadership opinion, has not taken into consideration existing political reality, namely, the fact of Karabakh independence, its interests relating the Karabakh population security providing. "Any moves of Karabakh self-defence troops have as goal to prevent and neutralize an Azerbaijani offence against Karabakh," the letter underlines. In the conclusion, Georgy Petrosyan on behalf of Karabakh leaership affirmed Butrus-Butrus Ghali on the respect for all principles promoting human rights and international security, expressing the hope that Karabakh Republic would become a full member of the international society.

Azeris Said Massing Troops; Turks Transporting Arms

NC0505182893 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Information and Press Department has informed us that the massing of Azerbaijani military hardware and troops is continuing along all the Republic's borders, mainly in Agdamskiy and Kubatlinskiy Rayons.

The NKR Self-Defense Forces Headquarters believes that the Azerbaijanis are preparing for a large-scale offensive against Martuni town, Gadrutskiy Rayon, and the Lachin humanitarian corridor.

Four Azerbaijani military helicopters conducted reconnaissance flights over Martuninskiy Rayon on 4 May.

Due to the unceasing shelling from the Azerbaijani side, farming in Armenia's Tavushskiy Rayon has been completely halted.

Despite all this, the Azerbaijani mass media is continuing to disseminate propaganda about an Armenian aggression against Kelbadzharskiy Rayon. They forget that just a few months ago, the authors of the analytical articles in Azerbaijani papers that spoke about their Army's successes were noting that the Army unit in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon, which was described as the best fighting force, had occupied most of the Armenian settlements in Mardakertskiy Rayon. The question arises: Why wouldn't the Armenian self-defense forces now have the right to obstruct the operations of the Army brigade in Kelbadzharskiy and prevent the reoccupation of the settlements in Mardakertskiy Rayon?

Turkish vehicles are continuing along (Voralan) highway towards the Araks River Bridge in great numbers. This bridge links Turkey with Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. According to reliable sources, arms and ammunition are being transported to Nakhichevan over that bridge.

There is an increase in the number of Turkish troops deployed opposite the Armenian border guard detachment in Artashatskiy Rayon. The Turkish Army teams are periodically reconnoitering and [word indistinct] the region between the highway and the Araks River. From the border positions, they are closely following the situation in Artashatskiy Rayon, in particular the traffic flow along the Yerevan-Yeraskh road.

Azerbaijan

Leadership Considers Position on Three-Way Peace Document

NC0505131193 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1118 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Baku, 5 May (ASSA-IRADA)—Azerbaijan handles proposals of Russia the US and Turkey. The personal representative of the Russian president and special

representatives of Turkey and the US met in Moscow, April 29-30, 1993. Basing on the peaceful initiative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and taking into consideration the recent meeting of the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents in Ankara, they held consultations related to the peace settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, ASSA-IRADA was told by the presidential press-service.

The trilateral consultations resulted in joint proposals aimed to establish peace in the region. The document was submitted to the Azeri and Armenian authorities. The leaders of Azerbaijan will announce their position following detailed study of the said document. ASSA-IRADA was told by some competent source the key items of the document accepted in Moscow. They are as following:

1. Immediate cease of fire.

2. Withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied areas, in particular from Kelbadzharskiy.

3. The conflicting parties are to start with the participation of the countries acting as initiators of peaceful settlement concurrent with the work of the Minsk conference.

State Secretary Says Document Approved

NC0605101093 Baku TURAN in English 0953 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Baku, 6 May (TURAN)—The Secretary of State Ali Karimov stated today that Azerbaijan approved trilateral plan on adjustment of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict. According to the secretary of state words, trilateral plan at the most coincides with 822 resolution of the CS UNO [United Nations Security Council].

U.S. Involvement Viewed

PM0505132593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 93 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Konstantin Eggert report: "New Attempt at Mediation in the Transcaucasus"]

[Text] The Russian-Turkish-U.S. peace initiative on Nagorno-Karabakh which was published 3 May could, if realized, be a dramatic turning point in the history of the Transcaucasian crisis.

The new settlement plan was finally agreed at a meeting of special representatives of Russia, Turkey, and the United States held 29-30 April in Moscow. Although the specific contents of the initiative were not revealed by its authors, who are awaiting a reply from Baku and Yerevan, AFP has learned the details. According to AFP's information, the plan includes the following points:

—the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the rayons of Kelbadzhar between 9 and 14 May;

—a cease-fire and discontinuation of troop movements for two months from 12 May;

—the holding of preliminary talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan between 17 and 22 May in Geneva under the auspices of Russia, Turkey, and the United States;

—the resumption of talks within the framework of the CSCE's Minsk group in Rome 24-25 May;

—the preparation of a comprehensive settlement plan by 1 July.

The initiative has been formulated on the basis of the "all or nothing" principle, that is to say both conflicting sides must either accept the plan as a whole or reject it altogether. A press statement which was due to be circulated simultaneously in Moscow, Ankara, and Washington says that President Yeltsin's initiative forms the basis of the peace plan, but the news agencies have not paid particular attention to this detail. Nevertheless it is well known that the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry has been outstandingly active in preparing the trilateral demarche.

If the AFP information is true, the new initiative is basically the same as UN Security Council Resolution 822 adopted 30 April which calls for "the cessation of hostilities and hostile acts and the withdrawal of occupying forces from Kelbadzharskiy Rayon and other recently occupied rayons."

If "hostilities" means actions by both sides, then "hostile acts" clearly implies the continuing blockade of Armenia by Azerbaijan. The reference to "recently occupied rayons" allows the Armenians to retain control of the Lachin corridor.

The Turkish representative's signature on the trilateral initiative gives the Elchibey government the opportunity to approve it without what is ordinarily called "losing face," especially as the new plan stipulates that the clearest obligations must be taken on by Armenia. At the same time President Ter-Petrosyan is sure to encounter dissatisfaction in national-patriotic circles in Yerevan.

One of the main obstacles in the way of realizing the Moscow-Ankara-Washington initiative is still the issue of the representation of Nagorno-Karabakh. "We must approach this conflict realistically," a Russian Foreign Ministry news staffer told your correspondent. "Three sides are taking part in it: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh. Any attempts by Baku or Yerevan to ignore this obvious fact could only push the peace process into a blind alley."

The fact that the United States has stepped up its role in settling the crisis is the Transcaucasus is symptomatic. Despite the joint statements made by Yeltsin and Bush in January, and also by Kozyrev and Christopher in February, the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict has hitherto not been a priority for U.S. foreign policy. The fact that Washington has joined Ankara and Moscow could, in certain conditions, improve the working atmosphere among the peacemakers: Recently some Russian diplomats have noted the Turkish side's coolness toward

proposals for joint cooperation coming out of the Kremlin and Smolensk Square.

As yet no reply to the trilateral initiative has been received from Armenia or Azerbaijan. During the afternoon of 4 May Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's personal representative, flew to Baku within the framework of the ongoing multilateral contacts.

Ministry Links Armenian Pullout to Dispute Over War Spoils

NC0505171293 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1509 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Baku, 5 May (AZERTAC)—Information provided today to AZERTAC by the National Security Ministry's Information Department states that the Armenian withdrawal from occupied Kelbadzharskiy Rayon is not linked at all with UN Security Council Resolution 822.

The Information Department notes that the press distorted the national security minister's remarks by quoting him as allegedly saying that the occupationist forces are withdrawing in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution.

The Information Department says that the withdrawal of one of the Armenian Army's subunits from Kelbadzharskiy actually is linked with an incident between the Armenian Army and Karabakh units. They disagreed on how to split ransacked property in Azerbaijan between them.

According to intelligence reports received by the Republic's National Security Ministry, an armed clash ensued between the groups in which nine people were killed. Fearing that the dispute might escalate, the Armenian Command Headquarters withdrew the military unit involved in the clash to the military base in Armenia's Vardenisskiy Rayon and replaced it with another force.

Armenians Said To Transfer Military Units

LD0505203593 Baku AZERTAC in Russian 1909 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Baku, 5 May—Armenia is transferring military equipment and military subunits onto the territory of Kelbadzharskiy and Agderinskiy Rayons in Azerbaijan. Reporting this information to an AZERTAC correspondent, the republic's Defense Ministry noted that in the view of military experts, this transfer is evidence of the fact that the neighboring republic is ignoring the well-known UN Security Council resolution. Here it is believed that the aim of these actions is to strengthen their positions in the territory which has been seized.

Georgia

Shevardnadze, Russian Commander Discuss Artillery Arsenal

NC0505132093 Yerevan SNARK in English 0948 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 4 May (SNARK)—[dateline as received] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze received General-Lieutenant Fedor Reut, commander of the Russian troops in Transcaucasia, today. They discussed the present situation around the Russian military artillery arsenal in Tbilisi. As SNARK recently reported, on May 27 [date as received] the Georgian military police urged Russian military men to guard the arsenal mutually by the premise of possibility for the arsenal capture by an illegal band. However, according to SNARK's reporter, May 3 late evening the removal of weapons began from the arsenal by enhanced guard of Georgian military police. In connection with the above, commander of the Russian troops in Transcaucasia announced an official protest and demanded to set free immediately the arsenal's territory and to return the captured arms. "That fact is just like a 'delay effect mine,' under the foundation of those positive changes in the sides relations which was achieved during the Russian-Georgian negotiations," the Russian troops in Transcaucasia press centre announcement reads today.

Defense Minister To Reject Parliament Call To Resign

MK0605092493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 93 p 3

[Nodar Broladze report: "'It's No Use Fighting Russia.' Tengiz Kitovani Listens Only to the People and the Army"]

[Text] Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani, who has just returned from NATO headquarters in Brussels, has called at a parliamentary meeting for "insinuations about coups d'etat to be stopped." Before leaving for Brussels, Kitovani gave a number of press conferences saying that he did not intend to pay heed to the parliament, and when asked whether he would abide by a parliamentary decision to dismiss him, should it be made, he said that he would listen only to the opinions of the people and the army. Head of parliament Eduard Shevardnadze said: "We will review at the next National Security Council meeting the question of who is who, what functions have been entrusted to the defense minister, and how they differ from those of the head of state."

Regarding relations with Russia, Kitovani said that the conflict with Abkhazia cannot be solved by military means because it is no use fighting Russia: "What we need are political measures, but they should be more thought out and flexible than those that have been undertaken before." According to Kitovani, Western countries are unable to help Georgia in any way because they value their relations with Russia too much. Eduard Shevardnadze recalled that in November he decided to

retain Kitovani as defense minister. "Now I have a more clear perception about the army. Parliament, the people, and the army should be united," Shevardnadze said. At present he is ready to present new candidacies for the posts of defense minister and deputy prime minister. The legislature resolved that the discussion of this matter should be finished at the next meeting on Thursday. As for the statement of the Republican faction demanding that the cabinet of ministers resign in toto, Shevardnadze said that his initial reaction was negative, but added: "I understand that there is some reason behind it. In this hungry country of ours, however, this government is at least working."

Swiss Ambassador Named UN Envoy to Georgia

LD0605105293 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1000 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Swiss ambassador to France Edouard Brunner has been named special United Nations envoy to Georgia. Mr. Brunner, a former ambassador to Washington, was the UN special envoy on the Middle East from 1991 until mid-March.

A spokesman for the Swiss Foreign Ministry said Mr. Brunner's new UN job was compatible with his post as ambassador to France because it would only last a few months.

Chinese Enterprises Sign Cooperation Agreement

LD0505203993 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1630 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] An agreement on cooperation has been signed between the collectives of the Kutaisi electric engine plant and the Tianjin (China) equipment plant. Using technology developed jointly, the Kutaisi plant has already started the production of oil-extraction complexes, capable of pumping out 'blue fuel' from a depth of 5,000 km and more. The issue of building a Georgian-Chinese joint venture in Kutaisi to manufacture petroleum and gas equipment has been discussed.

Parliament 4 May Session Detailed

LD0405123993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] A routine session of the Georgian parliament chaired by the speaker, Vakhtang Goguadze, resumed its work yesterday.

The session opened with statements from factions and individual members of parliament. These statements dealt with a variety of issues. Among them were a timetable for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia, the law and order situation in and around the town of Tskhaltubo, the dispatch of a parliamentary group to Mingrelia, and other topical issues.

Deputy Chairman of the Security and Defense Council Jaba Ioseliani spoke at the session stating his attitude towards the Security and Defense Council and calling on parliament to adopt without delay a resolution concerning this body.

Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani spoke about the Russian factor in the war in Abkhazia, stressing that Europe is well aware of the Russian policies and realizes that Russia cannot be countered by force and must be dealt with politically.

After a break, parliament went on to discuss issues on the agenda. Deputy Speaker of Parliament Rusudan Beridze presented draft resolutions on the improvement of procedures regulating citizens' visits to parliament and on the provision of communication equipment for parliament and its apparatus and of high frequency remote phones and transportation for officials. The aforementioned resolutions were adopted.

Members of parliament chose a delegation to the parliamentary assembly of economic cooperation of the countries of the Black Sea basin. It includes Members of Parliament Zurab Andriadze, Giorgi Gachechiladze, Givi Lominadze, and Malkhaz Baramidze. The delegation will be led by Speaker of Parliament Vakhtang Goguadze.

After another break, members of parliament voted to declare null and void a number of enactments related to military issues and to make amendments to the conscription law of the Georgian republic.

Deputy Khmaladze briefed parliament on the principles of local government elections. The head of state said there was a need for early local government elections, which would improve the situation in the localities.

The parliament continued to discuss issues which arose during the morning session. The discussion produced differing opinions and a heated debate.

The evening session was addressed by the head of the Georgian state, Chairman of Parliament Eduard Shevardnadze.

Latvia

Gorbunovs Meets With European Parliament Delegation

LD0505175093 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] As we have already reported, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, today met a delegation from the European Parliament concerned with the Baltic countries. It came to Latvia to get acquainted with the work of the Supreme Council and the political situation in the preelection period. In talks with the guests, Anatolijs Gorbunovs thanked them for the cordial support that the countries of Europe have given Latvia on its path to restoring an independent state.

At a news conference immediately after the meeting with Anatolijs Gorbunovs, the representatives of the delegation spoke about their impressions of Latvia. They also emphasized that the European Parliament still favors the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic countries and that, in their opinion, there is no argument at all in the reproaches expressed by Russia in relation to the observation of human rights in Latvia.

Andrejevs Denounces 'Ethnic Cleansing' Charges

WS0605112193 Tallinn BNS in English 2027 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Riga, May 05, BNS—Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs directed a letter to U.N.O. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali denouncing Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statements on "ethnic cleansing in Latvia".

"I would like to stress that the conclusions contained in the Russian president's statement were based on one of the drafts and not on the actual resolution adopted April 28, 1993," Andrejevs said.

"Therefore, the conclusions from our point of view are incorrect and form a basis for misunderstanding," the letter reads.

The resolution of the Republic of Latvia Supreme Council affects only the following categories of persons:

1) military persons who are currently in active service in the Armed Forces and other military units of the Russian Federation (USSR), as well as persons, who have retired from active military duty after May 4, 1990.

These provisions shall not apply to those persons who were permanently residing on the Latvian territory at the time of conscription;

2) the spouses of persons mentioned above, even if the couple have divorced, as well as the family members residing with them - their children, dependents and other relatives - if these persons have arrived in Latvia in connection with the service of a military person in the Russian Federation (USSR) Armed Forces, irrespective of their arrival date in Latvia. These provisions shall not apply to former spouses of the persons mentioned above, who have remarried;

3) civil persons who are registered with units of the Russian Federation (USSR) Armed Forces;

4) civil persons who have been posted in Latvia in connection with the location or withdrawal of the Russian Federation (USSR) Armed Forces in Latvia.

The provisions of this resolution shall not apply to Latvian citizens or their family members.

The accusations contained in Yeltsin's statement on "arbitrary deprivation of citizenship", are ungrounded because:

1) persons mentioned in the resolution never had Latvian citizenship;

2) their citizenship (former USSR) is not being deprived.

In fact, the Yeltsin's statement pretends that the Soviet Army was stationed in Latvia not due to the fact of occupation but legally.

"We protest the usage of such terms as "ethnic cleansing" in relation to Latvia. Republic of Latvia citizenship under present legislation is not defined by [word indistinct]," the letter said.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Criticizes Polish Envoy's Remark on Vilnius

WS0605112293 Tallinn BNS in English 2029 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Vilnius, May 05, BNS—Poland's ambassador to Lithuania adheres to "a virtually old concept of the expansionist pre-war Poland," Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the rightist opposition, said in a statement circulated Wednesday.

Landsbergis bases the conclusion on Ambassador's Jan Widacki's interview with the Vilnius-based daily KURJER WILENSKI, the biggest Polish language newspaper in Lithuania.

The opposition leader again criticizes the Polish ambassador for his interpretation of the period between 1920 and 1939 when Poland occupied eastern and southern parts of Lithuania, including Vilnius.

Landsbergis points to the fact that "an official representative of another state says Vilnius "was no longer a Polish city" only after World War II and as if is the capital of the Lithuanian state only now." [sentence and quotation marks as received]

Vilnius was Lithuania's capital since the 13th-14th century, Landsbergis says.

Lithuanian and Polish estimations of the historical past continue to differ on state level.

This, as well as national minority problems - Lithuanians in Poland and vice versa, are the principle reasons for the absence of an agreement on friendship and cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

Landsbergis Elected Leader of Homeland Union Party

LD0505192993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Vytautas Landsbergis, Lithuania's former head of state, who is now a Seimas deputy and leader of the right-wing opposition, has been elected as chairman of the new party, the Homeland Union [Soyuz Otechestva]. It is composed of Lithuania's conservatives.